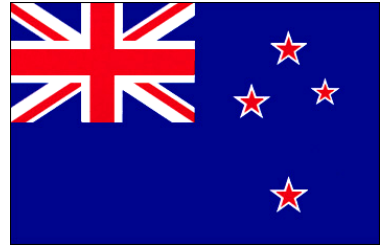


**Issue 89**

**Autumn 2010**



# **miNiZ**

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



## NEW NEW ZEALAND ETC.

The cover bottle is certainly not a new New Zealand bottle but it is one that I have been trying to show you for some time. The Robinson Brothers juice and cider company will be a familiar name to most New Zealanders. This bottle is from Robin Melish's collection and was bought at their Nelson factory shop in the 1970's. This is the only one I have ever seen – does anyone else have one in their collection?

Sticking with Robin's collection we have a series of plastic shot glass bottles. These are commonly on sale in liquor stores and, without a magnifying glass, it is almost impossible to tell whether they are New Zealand or Australian made. Robin had both but these eight are the NZ ones. All are 30ml and in the 17 – 20% proof range.



It is only a few months since I was told that Prenzel were not going to make any more 50ml bottles – don't believe everything you are told! Again we have Robin to thank for finding these and phoning me so we can all see them.

The Butterscotch Schnapps and Cream Liqueur are both 14%. The



Southern Star Vodka is 42.5%, the Espresso and Citron Vert are 22% and the Lemon Zest is 32%. The Blenheim Bay Gin (on the right) is also from Prenzel. This is in a shorter square bottle but it is still 50ml and 42.5%.



Erica Mulder found Rocks, an Islay malt from Bruichladdich. This is an import with the importer's label on the back. It is 50ml, 46%. Finally we have a new Drambuie found by myself. This has an importer's label matching the main label. Unfortunately it is plastic but then, you can't have everything. It looks smaller but is 50ml and 40%.



That's it for NZ bottles to show you but I want to thank the contributors to this issue. David Spaid has provided some pictures of some great new vodkas. Ron Gabbard has provided an article on the 'nice' looking common bottles that nobody wants (next time, pictures of empty bottles

he has drunk! – just kidding). He has also contributed the information below. And Peter Bonkovich has helped with the 'As Seen on Ebay' article. My thanks to you all, it makes putting out this newsletter much easier.

*David Smith*

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## ***IMPORTANT NOTE RE: EBAY***

Ron Gabbard wrote: Just got a note from Sandy and Butch Jones for something to include in the MMBC newsletter. Apparently Ebay has taken the next step to prevent foreign buyers from purchasing mini bottles. For the last year you were not allowed to say you would ship overseas but now they have added software that makes it so you have to have a U.S. user ID and U.S. address in order to bid. (this applies to U.S. Ebay only). Anyway I just wanted to extend the offer to you (and any of the other NZMBC members not in the U.S.) that if they need bidding and/or shipping help with bottle purchases, I would be more than happy to help.

Editor: It should be possible to set up a US account using a friend's address but this does complicate things as you will not know which sellers are willing to post overseas and which not. You can always ask but some sellers will certainly be wary of answering as it could be someone from Ebay checking that they are sticking to the rules.

Under this system US sellers will be considerably disadvantaged as it has been very noticeable that those who are prepared to ship overseas do get better, and often considerably better, prices.

Hopefully these new rules will quietly fade away. Strictly speaking you have never been able to list bottles containing alcohol on US Ebay from overseas. This rule has generally not been enforced, although they have from time to time. Marj's son, Rex, had a number of his listing deleted a year or so ago (whilst selling his late mother's collection) but many others got through. Note that there is a New Zealand Ebay and others in Australia, UK etc. that you can probably still list on without any problems – not that that gets around the problem of not being able to bid on US auctions.

# GOLF – AGAIN

In issue 85 & 86 I showed you all the golf ball minis that I could find. I promised to bring you golf clubs and bags in another edition, so here we go, clubs first.



The first club is a Jim Beam bottle in a plastic putter head with a metal and rubber handle – very authentic. There is a very similar piece with a J&B Rare Scotch bottle.

Next we have an all glass club from Alexander of Italy. This also comes in a boxed set with a glass golf ball mini.



Much more familiar to most of you will be the George Dickel club to the immediate right. This is filled with American whiskey. Much less common is the variation on the far right



The club heads above, from McGibbons, will be familiar to all of you. There are a number of variations and two are shown. Much less common are the two club heads to the right, also from McGibbons. To the left we have a club head from Lindisfarne. This can also be found with the Glen Fiona Label – owned by Lindisfarne.







Bet you haven't seen the above two bottles. These are my favourite club heads, a driver and a putter from VIP of Korea.



The clubs and bag to the left are from La Priere. This is a French company but the 'standard' Cognac bottle is set in a plastic mount in the shape of a golf bag and clubs. There are lots of bottles set like this from a number of companies. They were all made for the eastern market.

A more familiar golf bag and clubs, this time in a trundler, is the blown glass piece from Baitz. This has been seen with a number of different contents including Cherry Brandy and Creme de Menthe.



The great trundler to the left is also filled with Cognac. Again this was made for the eastern market (Japan, Korea and, increasingly, China).



We return again to McGibbons for the first of our golf bags. There are plain Green, Red, Yellow and Blue. These were on general sale. The same four colours were also made in tartan. These were 'officially' only sold in duty free shops. Following the Asian stock market crash in 1997 the New Zealand importer of these (for the duty free stores) contacted the club and offered to sell us some at cost (just under NZ\$20 each) as he was stuck with a lot of stock that his main customers, the Koreans, no longer wanted to buy. Unfortunately he did not have any blue but we bought up a few dozen of the other three colours and sold them to our members at cost. Note the logo on the blue McGibbons bag. This one was a special for the Glasgow Rangers Football Club.



The white and blue golf bags are from Pascal Dumont of France. Each contains 3cl of 40% Scotch. The next bag is unfortunately in black and white but actually this comes in white, blue and maroon. Another French company, Baron De Castelneau, made these. The final bag is another 'Expo 93' mini from VIP of Korea.



The two golf ball like flasks are from Etiquette of Scotland and, of course, contain Scotch. The second photo shows a picture of the famous St. Andrews course – can anyone tell me



which course is on the first flask?

The two decanters are yet more minis from McGibbons. They picture the 'The Old Course St. Andrews' and 'The Ailsa Course Turnberry.' The latter is much more difficult to find.



The first golfing jug is from Lindisfarne and, again, may also be seen with the Glen Fiona label. The jug below the last one is from Rutherford. Both contain Scotch.



The golfer above looks very like a 'give-away' bottle but it is actually from Bal Tabarin of Japan. This is part of a set of four from Bal Tabarin which also comprises a tennis player, baseball player and skier.



The two hexagonal and the square flask are all from Pointers, although you will see that one is under the Gordon Highlander brand. These are all 10cl minis and contain Scotch. The first two depict the St.

Andrews course and the third depicts Tiger Woods.

I almost forgot the two golf trundlers from Glenfiddich of Scotland and Seagers of New Zealand (containing gin). I am sure that I have seen more of these from other manufacturers but do not have any photos for you.



Sorry about the black and white photo again but I had to save the best 'till last and show you this great golfer bottle. It is from John Dekuyper of the US, and I don't need to tell you that it is old and rare.



And that's about it for golf. I have not included the golfing dogs decanter from Jim beam as I showed you that in miNiZ87 and I have identified a few new golf balls but you have probably had enough of those.

*David Smith*




## **MONGOLIAN VODKAS**

David Spaid sent us this photo of four Mongolian vodkas. I have seen some of these for sale on Ebay but generally they have not got a bid. Collectors really are strange – where else can you get a bottle from Mongolia?



## BOTTLES WE LOVE TO HATE

We have all seen them, the bottles that we add to our collection since we find it cute or unique only to find out later the bottle is common and keeps appearing everywhere. Our bottle club in the Pacific Northwest has monthly meetings and every meeting has bottle raffles. Inevitably at the end of every raffle there are the two or three bottles left and everyone is dreading having their ticket drawn - do I really need another one of those? The Pasha bottle falls into this category and is always one of the last ones taken. It is a nice bottle, unique (and I have seen it listed more than once as rare on e-bay). I was excited when I added one to my collection, but how many do I need? Everyone in our club has at least 2 or 3 of these bottles and



they appear to be reproducing in the club bottle collection. Another bottle that everyone appears to also have two or three of is the Chambord liquor (*not so in NZ – Ed.*). It too is a unique bottle that comes in many variations (Jacquin labels, Chambord labels, different contents, different lids) and it too keeps turning up at the end of our raffles (I personally have 10 of these in a few variations). The other two unique bottles that also seem to always end up at the end of the raffles are the Vandermint Tulip bottle and the Cheri-Suisse steeple bottle. All of these bottles make nice additions to a collection, but after you have three of each you just hope not to have to see another at the end of the raffle when your ticket is pulled!

*Ron Gabbard*



**TULLAMORE DEW**

Have you seen these three new Tullamore Dew jugs? Each contains 50ml of 40% Irish Whiskey. The only difference in the three is the colour of the tops, blue, black and green.

# ***MALAYSIAN GUINNESS***

This limited edition five bottle Guinness set is very rare and I have not seen another for sale. They were bottled in Malaysia in 2003 to test launch the new bottle and label worldwide. They were only sold in Malaysia, where there are very few collectors, so most of these will not have found their way into collections.



The set comprises a mini standard bottle, guitar, gun, horn and moon. All bottles are about 90mm (3.5") tall (larger than the usual micromini Guinness bottles) and contain Foreign Extra Stout at 8% alcohol.





*David Smith*



# POLISH VODKAS

David Spaid has sent us the pictures below. They are of a new set of Polish vodkas that are currently for sale only in Poland. There is also a set where everything is in Polish.



			
<b>barley</b>	<b>oat</b>	<b>rye</b>	<b>potato</b>
<b>Tasting note</b>	<b>Tasting note</b>	<b>Tasting note</b>	<b>Tasting note</b>
<b>Nose:</b> <i>Delicate, round. Hint of bread and fruit.</i>	<b>Nose:</b> <i>Strong slightly tart. Oily with a hint of apple fruit.</i>	<b>Nose:</b> <i>Strong with the distinct influence of fresh bread.</i>	<b>Nose:</b> <i>Strong and sweet with an earthy note.</i>
<b>Palate:</b> <i>Soft and delicate with a note of black currant detectable.</i>	<b>Palate:</b> <i>Thick, slightly bitter with a wholemeal bread finish.</i>	<b>Palate:</b> <i>Sweet, strong clear taste of bread. Slightly bitter.</i>	<b>Palate:</b> <i>Sweet, creamy taste of baked potatoes.</i>
<b>Starch content:</b> 52 - 54%	<b>Starch content:</b> 35 - 52%	<b>Starch content:</b> 54 - 60%	<b>Starch content:</b> 18 - 20%
<b>Soil:</b> <i>Needs fertile soil.</i>	<b>Soil:</b> <i>Low requirements.</i>	<b>Soil:</b> <i>Very low requirements. Light and mellow soil.</i>	<b>Soil:</b> <i>Very low requirements. Light and mellow soil.</i>
<b>Climate:</b> <i>Needs a lot of water. Is not frost resistant.</i>	<b>Climate:</b> <i>Needs damp climate and long growing season.</i>	<b>Climate:</b> <i>Low requirements. Frost resistant.</i>	<b>Climate:</b> <i>Continental. Is not frost resistant.</i>



## AS SEEN ON EBAY #21

I thought that the last 'As Seen on Ebay' was about six months ago but when I looked it up I was amazed to find it was 15 months. Time to put that right.

Both the the Scotches on the right are micro minis, the J&B being only 31mm high and the Teacher's 33mm high. Unusually these are both glass and both do contain the original Scotch. The J&B sold for £32.99 and the Teacher's US\$76 (approximately US\$5,700 for a 750ml bottle!)



The above double ended bottle should have been in the last issue of miNiZ! Unfortunately the excitement of this bottle meant that I forgot to record the sale price!



There are not many milk bottles around and most of them are micro minis – this one isn't. It is 105mm (4 1/8") high. It sold well at \$26.25



The bottles above were obviously sold originally in Mexico. These are 'standard' bottles that locals add their embellishments to to catch the eye of the tourists. This is another set that I could have used in the last miNiZ! Unfortunately they failed to sell.

The dirigible or Zeppelin is probably a 'give-away.' The only



thing that I can tell you about it is that it was made in Germany and sold for US\$45.

Another German give-away bottle is 'The Black Danger.' This reflects the attitude of a (hopefully) bygone era. Intriguingly, this looks like two boys, rather than a boy and a girl – obviously doubly shocking! It sold for US\$76



The 'piece' (you cannot call it a bottle) above and to the right was made many years ago for the Mini Bottle Club in the UK. The micro minis on it are obviously solid plastic. The Austin Mini Van was made by Corgi in a limited edition of 100. There was lively bidding and £104.55 bought it.



Most, if not all of you, will be familiar with the Louis XIII Cognac bottles. They are by Remy Martin and the bottles are Baccarat crystal. These two bottles were put up by the same collector. The first is the oldest version and obviously in beautiful condition. It sold for US\$676. The second is much more modern but is a very rare variation, having the US importer's label. This sold for US\$1975. The seller would have been delighted. There is one even more rare variation of this bottle. This has 10 real diamonds in the stopper (pictured on next page). It is a limited edition and was only sold in Japan. I wonder what one of these would sell for?



The Dalmore Scotch on the display stand with still sold for only £14. A very disappointing result I would have thought. This is what the seller had to say. 'Here we have an Alembic Pot Still with coil that will take most round miniature bottles. This type of still was used by Druids and Alchemists many years ago for brewing up their potions but is not unlike many of the pot stills used in production today. It is hand made from copper and has been lacquered so there is no polishing required. It stands at approx 140mm high and sits on a solid copper base plate which is fixed to a wooden plinth. The top half is removable and the coil has an inside diameter of approx 39mm. This is a nice way to show off a collectable miniature but is also a nice ornament on it's own.



Two the left we have three gins. Brecon is a modern 50ml glass bottle. It sold well for a gin at US\$26. Holloway's Dry London Gin is obviously considerably older but in excellent condition. It sold for US\$20.50. Finally we have

Silver Knight. This is from a Spanish speaking country but the seller did not say which one. Sale price was a poor US\$7.25 for such a nice bottle.

Pomegranate & Cafe are both 25ml 16.5% minis. It is not often that we show bottles from Israel. A minimum bid of





US\$9.99 bought the pair.

On the right is a German liqueur, Hemmeter Enzian, in the shape of the alpine enzian flower. It is 0.05 Litre, 40%. It sold for €5.09

Another blue liqueur from Germany is the 0.03 Litre, 21% Vin Doro. It was made by August Kelle and contains Curacao Blau. A mere €1.00 bought it. From blue to green. The German Paradis liqueur is from St. Vith. It is 0.40 litres, 20%. €5.09 bought this one.



Coldingham Scotch is a private bottling from the Spar shop at Coldingham. It sold for £7.51

Whilst on the subject of Scotch, look at the picture below. These are three bottles from a new, small scale, farm distillery. This gift pack is (or maybe was) only available at the distillery on the Hebridean isle of Islay. Each bottle is 5cl and the proof varies between the three. This gift pack sold for US\$42.00. The seller provided some further information, which I will share.



*"Kilchoman will be one of the sensations of 2009 once its first mature (i.e. 3 year old) whisky is released in September. The new spirit got great reviews from the lucky few who had an opportunity to sniff it."*

*Kilchoman is a traditional farm distillery where everything from*

*growing barley to malting to distilling to maturing the spirit is done on site. The production capacity is a mere 90,000 litre of alcohol, just a drop compared to the millions Caol Ila is pouring out annually. In other words, everything that will be released by this distillery will*

*be rare and highly collectable. Samples of their new spirit have been made available intermittently through the distillery and very limited numbers of full sized bottles of their 2 year old have been sold at a few whisky festivals in Europe (only 4 ex-Bourbon casks have been bottled). The only bottle that has been made available through regular retail outlets, and then only in Europe at specialist stores, is a 5 cl miniature of the 2 year old."*



Whilst on the subject of Scotch sets, I came across this seven bottle set. The Seven Wonders of The World contain 50ml of Royal Highness blended Scotch. A nice set that sold for US\$49.99

The Glendronach Single Malt Scotch Whisky Jug was produced by Wm. Teacher & Sons. It is 75mm (3") tall. It sold for a surprisingly high £25.00



Wines rarely sell well so sellers need to be realistic with their starting bids. The above three wines, Sorrentino Vino Fino Blanco, Sorrentino Vino Fino Tinto and Torres Mistela Argent are all from Argentina, as was the seller. He wanted US\$6.99 each + US\$7.00 each postage and packing. You guessed it, there were no bids.

We might as well stick with wines for the rest of this page, and another unrealistic seller. The Serchi Chianti is a plastic micromini. US\$12.99 was the asking price. I have the world's largest collection of micros but, even though I do not have this one, I would not buy it at anything like this price even if perfect (note the missing bit of label). If you are intending to sell, on any auction site, have a look at what has been selling and how much for, then price accordingly. Simple really but beyond the understanding of many would be sellers. A bit of preparation will pay off in both what you sell items for and the number of items you either do or do not sell.







Oxford whisky was made in Argentina from Scotch malt and local whisky by Alcoholera Royal under supervision of Stanley Holt & Son Ltd, Glasgow. It is 114mm (4½") tall and contains 50 cm3. It failed to sell for a €7 minimum bid.

Hobo's was produced in Argentina by Alcoholera Royal. It is 114mm (4½") tall and contains 50 cm3 at 43°. This one did sell, for US\$13.59

McAdams Canadian Whisky is a 5cl bottle. The same bottle came up for sale twice. The first time it sold for £7.51, the second time for just £0.99 – that's auctions for you.

Prime Blue and Prime Blue 12 are Scotches. These are tall 50ml bottles. US\$15 bought the pair.

Sticking with Whisky we now have a couple of Irish jugs. The Seanachie Jug is from a restaurant in Waterford. It is 108mm (4.25") high x 57mm (2.25") dia. and contains 100ml at 14.5%. US\$9.24 bought it.



The real gem on this page is the Mitchell's Cruiskeen Lawn old Irish Whisky jug. When I first saw this jug I thought that it wasn't a miniature but, at only 110mm (4⅓") tall, it is. Unfortunately, and amazingly to me, it failed to sell. Compared to the prices fetched by



many American jugs the minimum asking price of £52 seemed cheap. The postage asked, £22 did seem dear but combined the price was still cheap. This hobby, and auctions, amaze me at times.

To the right we have a  
Luxardo Cherry  
Ardo Liqueur  
Banana miniature, made in  
1960. (Why not a banana  
liqueur?)  
Only 1124 of these were  
produced. The bottle was  
sold empty but with a  
perfect label. It sold for  
US\$36.99



The Borghini Fruit bowl  
miniature was made in 1969. It contains Lacrima Christi liqueur. A  
great bottle that sold for a fair US\$46.20



I'm sure you are all familiar with the Mr. Lucky set from Hoffman. These have been a lot of these on Ebay lately and they have been selling well, fetching an average of about US\$24. Mr. Butcher and Mr. Mailman are shown here.

There are always lots of Ski Country minis on Ebay. Generally these are not selling very well, although some pieces do surprise you from time to time. The Dugs brothels continue to be in demand, although they are not fetching quite as much as they would have done five or ten years ago. Other US sets, such as Lionstone and Cyrus Noble are fetching very poor money, when they sell at all. This may be because a lot of the original

collectors of these in the 1960's to 1980's are now retiring (or sadly, dying) and there are too many coming on the market at once. I believe that the wheel will turn at some point and the price of all the American ceramics will eventually start to rise.

These two great Mexican bottles by Papillon depict a black lady (sometimes called the Jazz Singer) and a boxer. They are from the 1940's. I have seen others of these and a closely related set, Anglo-Swiss, and all have been very collectable but the labels have been either very poor or non-existent. Just look at these ones! The minimum asking price was a bargain at US\$35 and I was very tempted to bid but decided that I would probably just end up in a bidding war with several other collectors. I should have. They both sold







for the minimum bid. The purchaser certainly got a bargain – good luck to them.

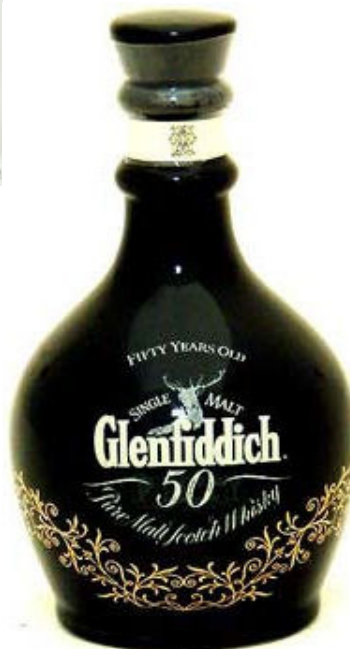
My thanks to Peter Bonkovich for the next three bottles.

The baseball jug from Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee is probably not a liquor jug but it sure is a nice bottle. It sold for US\$116.99



The Glenfiddich 20 year old Wedgewood bottle was sold on 'The Whisky Auction,' as did the next bottle. This great bottle sold for €101.00 – probably more than it would have sold for on Ebay.

Frankly, I have difficulty believing that the next bottle sold for €658.00. This is the Glenfiddich 50 year old decanter / bottle. Not a bad price for a mini! Anyone fancy a drink?



Finally we have the Gold Leaf Cognac from Denis Mounie. This bottle, in the shape of a brandy glass, is not too uncommon and there are a number of variations. I would have thought that it would have sold for more than US\$3.25 though.

*David Smith*

# ***DATE, TIME & PLACE***

**Sunday 2nd May 2010, 2.00pm** Peter Alty's, 12 Blencathra Place. Christchurch  
Telephone: 03 338 4220

**Sunday 30th May 2010, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Colin & Diane Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville. Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

**Sunday 6th June 2010, 2.00pm** Robin & Jess Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch  
Telephone: 03 384 9757 E-Mail: [jessmell@clear.net.nz](mailto:jessmell@clear.net.nz)

**Saturday 17th July 2010, 6.30pm** Pot Luck Dinner, Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt. Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: Kenchin@ihug.co.nz

**Sunday 25th July 2010, 2.00pm** Wayne Skene's, 16 Tucker Street, Ashburton.

**Sunday 19th September 2010, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu.  
Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

**Sunday 26th September 2010, 2.00pm** Trevor Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke Street, Christchurch  
Telephone: 03 388 7713

**Sunday 14th November 2010, 2.00pm** Eric & Cheryl Sutton's, 14C Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch Telephone: 03 383 9686 E-Mail: [cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz)

**Sunday 21st November 2010, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Colin & Diane Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville. Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

**Sunday 16th January 2011, 12.30pm** Barbecue Lunch at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.  
Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

## **Weekend of 18th - 20th February 2011 - AGM Weekend in Christchurch**

Programme to be confirmed later in 2010

The AGM Weekends have been very successful. All are BYO food and drink. Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. This is a chance to meet or catch up with other collectors, view some great collections and obtain some new bottles.

Please E-Mail: [minisnz@gmail.com](mailto:minisnz@gmail.com) to let us know you are attending. We already have one of our overseas members confirmed - what about you?

**If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know prior to the AGM.**