



19 June 2002

An eclectic fusion of Scotland and Cuba Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old

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Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch Whisky has introduced a remarkable new product to its prestige range, Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old - an intriguing taste sensation created from the distilling expertise of two of the world's great independent spirits, the Scots and the Cubans.

Resurrecting a lost tradition of maturing Scotch whisky in rum casks, the Glenfiddich Malt Master has finished a Glenfiddich 21 Year Old in casks that previously held 4 year old Cuban rum - from the beautiful mountainous region of Sancti Spiritus, near the Sierra Del Escambray, deep in the heart of Cuba.

A unique, sweet flavour profile of toffee and banana on the nose, and lime and ginger to taste, Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old is a refreshing move for malt whisky - Hemingway himself would have been inspired!

Unfortunately for the United States of America, due to the Helms-Burton Act that restricts trade between Cuba and America, the Cuban rum finish of this Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old means that it has acquired sufficient Cuban heritage to be caught by the Act and so sale in the US is impossible.

James Doherty, Rare Whisky Manager commented: "We were looking for a new adventure, to add an element of intrigue to Glenfiddich and Gran Reserva certainly does that. Our Cuban rum finished casks bring a vibrant taste profile to this Glenfiddich and the richness of the Cuban culture, its fiery mix of



-2-

Spanish and African, its independence, passion for music and life itself, fits really well with Glenfiddich, the independent spirit. The US position is unfortunate, but it does leave more for the rest of us!”

There are striking similarities in the production of Glenfiddich single malt Scotch whisky and Cuban rum. Both use similar distilling processes and both are matured in oak barrels to develop character and flavour. However two key differences, the raw ingredients – barley versus sugar cane – and the vastly differing country climates, produce two remarkably different products.

In the case of Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old, oak barrels previously used for Cuban rum were filled with Glenfiddich. They were placed in warehouse no 27 at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown, in the Highlands of Scotland, to mature – over 4000 miles from the sugar cane fields in Cuba.

Glenfiddich Malt Master, David Stewart, sampled the casks every week to assess their development. Only when he was convinced that the taste, while unmistakably Glenfiddich, had acquired just the right vibrancy, with rum and spice notes, did he pronounce it ready for drinking.

Malt Master’s tasting notes:

Colour	Warm gold, amber
Nose	Intense and sweet, floral hints of banana, figs and toffee
Taste	Initially soft, then brisk, vibrant and drying, peppery, a touch of smoke, ginger, lime and spices
Finish	Very long, warming, dry and spicy



-3-

Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky will be rolled out world-wide from July, priced at £59 (RRP) for a 70cl bottle at 40%ABV.



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-4-



Notes to Editors:

- Cuban rum is made from a single raw ingredient, fresh sugar cane molasses
- Production is based on an old, well established tradition, in which time, natural maturation in oak casks and the favourable climate of Cuba comprise an old ritual
- Rum takes its colour from the old American oak casks already manufactured for Bourbon
- Cuba is now one of the most frequently visited Caribbean countries, over the last five years, the number of tourists has more than doubled
- Glenfiddich has been made in the same way for over 100 years
- Only a single source of water from the Robbie Dhu spring is used throughout production
- It is the only Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky to 'estate' bottle (at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown, Scotland)
- It still uses the same unusually small stills as it always has and retains the traditional skills of the coppersmith and cooper