

Press Release

GLENFIDDICH RELEASES NEW VATTING OF 40 YEAR OLD

From the distillery where every year counts comes a new vatting release of the award winning Glenfiddich Rare Collection 40 Year Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Malt Master David Stewart has carefully selected a number of casks and married together with the remnants of the previous 40 year old vatting to deliver a beautifully proportioned single malt Scotch whisky full of character.

The chosen casks, which had been lovingly tended by the Glenfiddich Distillery's own coopers and warehousemen, were laid down for maturation in traditional warehouses in 1961, 1965 and 1966 – the same years The Beatles first performed at Liverpool's Cavern Club, Sir Winston Churchill died and The Sound of Music was released, respectively.

The 1965 cask was a sherry butt and the other two refill hogsheads. In addition, what remained of the previous vatting contained whiskies first distilled as far back as 1925. Using these remnants ensures consistency as whiskies of this age are incredibly powerful, with even a small amount significantly impacting upon aroma and taste profiles.

Commenting on the new bottling, David Stewart said: "This is the fourth vatting of Glenfiddich Rare Collection 40 Year Old and, in my opinion, is the best yet. The combination of refill hogsheads, a sherry butt and more than 40 years of patient maturation delivers a finely layered single malt of complex aromas and flavours from the initial floral nose through a creamy sweet body to the long, dry, smoky finish. We're hoping this release lives up to the reputation of its predecessor, which was named 'Best of the Best' by Whisky Magazine."

The Glenfiddich Rare Collection 40 Year Old, bottled at the cask strength of 43.7% ABV, comes in a solid oak presentation box with detailed tasting notes from renowned whisky writer Michael Jackson. It is available from specialist retailers and the Glenfiddich Distillery at £1,000 for a 70cl bottle.

In his tasting notes, Michael Jackson says: "Not all whiskies are suited to such long maturation, but Glenfiddich is a perfect candidate. It emerges with a silky elegance that

is both seductive and challenging. To sit down with such a complex whisky and persuade it to reveal itself is a rare pleasure.”

Michael Jackson tasting notes:

Colour: Garnet. Dark marble.

Nose: Floral. Herbaceous borders. A rose garden. Fragrant. Honeyed. Then beeswax. Polished oak and leather armchairs.

Palate: Oily, then creamy and sweet, arousing delicious expectations of the white chocolate notes that can occur in a long-matured Glenfiddich. The promise is realised, in ascending layers of flavour. After mocha coffee and pain au chocolat, boxes of dates. Then a teasing, bittersweet, moment; something dark, crazy and Belgian. Chocolate truffles in crème Anglaise. Raspberries and redcurrants with a malt-doused vanilla ice cream.

Finish: For all the sweet and creamy suggestions, this single malt Scotch whisky is balanced by fruitiness and acidity. Finally, a late, long, restrained dryness. Bitter chocolate pralines with root ginger, burnt-tasting caramels in front of a smoky, aromatic log fire.

Comment: Glenfiddich matures with great confidence. The fresh fruitiness of its youth embraces the creamy richness of its middle years and the bittersweet sophistication of maturity. At first, these characteristics are bold and simple, but they gain dimension in the cask. New aromas and flavours develop, reacting with each other and with the oak of the cask. Not all whiskies are suited to such long maturation, but Glenfiddich is a perfect candidate. It emerges with a silky elegance that is both seductive and challenging. To sit down with such a complex whisky and persuade it to reveal itself is a rare pleasure.

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Further information:

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Notes to editors

- Reigning ISC Distiller of the Year William Grant & Sons Ltd has been awarded 10 gold medals at the 2006 International Spirits Challenge (ISC) and 13 gold medals at the 2007 International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) and for its highly regarded portfolio of Scotch whisky brands.
- William Grant & Sons is an independent family-owned distiller founded by William Grant in 1886 and today still controlled by the fifth generation of his family. The Company distils some of the world's leading brands of Scotch whisky, including the world's favourite single malt Glenfiddich®, the handcrafted range of The Balvenie® single malts and one of the world's top five blended Scotches, Grant's®, as well as selected other spirits, including Hendrick's® Gin, voted the 'World's Best Gin' by the Wall Street Journal and most recently Reyka® Vodka.

The Company has acquired a number of premium spirits brands including Gibson's Finest Canadian whisky, OVD, Wood's and Vat 19 rums, the French brandies Three Barrels and Raynal and, most recently, a 30% stake in the premium Tequila Milagro business in Mexico

- The Company owns 30% of Highland Distillers, whose brands include The Macallan and Highland Park Single Malt Scotch Whiskies and The Famous Grouse blended Scotch Whisky.
- Click on www.williamgrant.com for more information on the Company and its brands