

press release

28 September 2006

Family History William Grant & Sons Named Distiller of the Year Again

Independent, family-owned distillers, William Grant & Sons Ltd, last night entered the history books as the first whisky distiller ever to receive the highly prestigious International Spirits Challenge (ISC) Distiller of the Year accolade for the second year, in a row.

The accolade follows on from the company's exceptional performance in the 2006 ISC where it scooped a record 32 medals across its product portfolio including 6 golds for whiskies from its The Balvenie® range of single malts. The medal haul also helped push Glenfiddich® to the poll position of the most awarded single malt Scotch whisky in the world.

David Stewart, Malt Master collected the Distiller of the Year trophy on behalf of the company at a dinner held yesterday (September 27th) at the Dorchester in London.

William Grant & Sons also received two Brand Innovation Commendations from the ICS for its new blended malt, Monkey Shoulder® and Icelandic vodka, Rekya®. It was the only distiller to receive any innovation accolades.

Steven Sturgeon, Marketing Director for William Grant & Sons Ltd said: "It is an incredible achievement to collect the coveted Distiller of the Year title again this year. We were thrilled in 2005 when our spirits portfolio amassed an impressive 30 medals, but this year we did even better scooping 32 medals, including 10 golds.

William Grant & Sons is an independent, family owned company that leads the way in terms of the quality of its products. Our whiskies – Glenfiddich, The Balvenie, Grant's® and Monkey Shoulder – are all crafted under the expert guidance of our Malt Master, David Stewart who has over 44 years experience in the industry.

He has helped us to build one of the finest Scotch whisky portfolios in the world and is now passing on his skills and knowledge to our apprentice Malt Master, Brian Kinsman."

The exceptional result bestowed upon William Grant & Sons Ltd is a tribute to the innovative drive behind the company's brands that has ensured its success worldwide since its creation in 1887. Scotch whiskies from William Grant & Sons are produced at The Glenfiddich, The Balvenie and Girvan Distilleries.

Although internationally famous for its whiskies, in recent years William Grant & Sons has diversified into other premium spirits including a £1 million investment in Iceland's first distillery to produce a luxury vodka called Reyka, the production of super premium gin, Hendrick's®, and a selection of rums including the trend setting Sailor Jerry® brand.

In total at the ISC, William Grant & Sons attained ten gold medals, sixteen silver and six bronze medals.

The complete list of medals awarded to the company is shown below:

WHISKIES

| | |
|--------|---|
| Trophy | Grant's 25 Year Old |
| Gold | The Balvenie Founders Reserve 10 Year Old |
| | The Balvenie DoubleWood 12 Year Old |
| | The Balvenie Portwood |
| | The Balvenie Portwood 21 Year Old |
| | The Balvenie Thirty |
| | The Balvenie NewWood |
| | Grant's 25 Year Old |
| | Grant's Premium 12 Year Old |
| | Grant's Delux 15 Year Old |
| | The Gordon Highlander whiskies |
| Silver | The Balvenie Single Barrel |
| | The Balvenie RumWood |
| | The Balvenie Vintage Cask 1972 |
| | Glenfiddich 1991 Vintage Reserve |
| | Glenfiddich Special Reserve 12 Year Old |
| | Glenfiddich Caoran Reserve |
| | Glenfiddich Solera Reserve 15 Year Old |
| | Glenfiddich Ancient Reserve 18 Year Old |
| | Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old |

Glenfiddich 30 Year Old
Glenfiddich Cask Strength 15 Year Old
Glenfiddich Vintage Reserve 1973
Grant's Ale Cask Reserve
Grant's Rare 18 Year Old
Clan MacGregor
Hendrick's Gin

Bronze Grant's Family Reserve
Grant's Sherry Cask Reserve
Glenfiddich Rare Collection 40 Year Old
Monkey Shoulder Triple Malt Scotch Whisky
Girvan Single Grain 1964
O.V.D Spiced

ENDS

Notes to editors

- The ISC competition is now in its eleventh year and is still judged independently by an eminent panel of distillers, restaurateurs, sommeliers, importers and specialist writers from Britain and Europe
- William Grant & Sons is an award-winning 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 the world's fourth largest blended Scotch Grant's[®], as well as selected other

spirits, including Hendrick's® Gin, recently voted the 'World's Best Gin' by the Wall Street Journal and most recently Rekya vodka from Iceland's only distillery.

- The Company also 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

Further information:

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