

Press Release – 22nd August 2006

FROM SKILLED CRAFTSMEN TO CRAFTY CONNOISSEURS

On a snow-white morning in January, seven coopers went off to work with a particularly large spring in their step. It was their privilege to assist the Malt Master, David Stewart, in selecting this year's Glenfiddich Vintage Reserve, and they've set a new benchmark by breaking with tradition.

The seven men, all of whom work at William Grant & Sons' Glenfiddich Distillery cooperage in Dufftown, have chosen a 1973 Glenfiddich single malt that has matured for 33 years in second-fill Spanish sherry butts, the first time the Distillery has used a malt stored in this type of wood for its Vintage Reserve.

Head Cooper, Don Ramsay, whose previous selection experience helped win the Company two 'Gold Medals'* for the limited edition Glenfiddich 1991 Vintage Reserve said: "It's always a pleasure to see the Malt Master at work nosing and tasting the casks, but to be an actual part of the selection process for a Glenfiddich Vintage Reserve is a huge honour for all the men. The cooperage has been buzzing about it for months, so it's great to see the whisky finally in the bottle."

The cask makers and menders, who have over 130 years experience between them at what is the Highlands' only on-site distillery cooperage, were Don Ramsay (59), Ian McDonald (52), Paul MacDonald (40), Gordon Davidson (50), Richard Anderson (28), Christopher Clark (26) and Michael Shearer (43).

Commenting on the new vintage, David Stewart said: “I was surprised at their choice of using Glenfiddich matured in sherry butts for a vintage, but it couldn’t have worked out better. The dark colour is the deepest of any Vintage Reserve release to date. The nose has rich oak notes, a subtle nuttiness and sherried sweetness that leads to a stunning sweet and spicy sensation upon taste and a warm and lingering finish.”

A total of 861 bottles will be drawn from the two casks selected. Filled at an unusually low cask strength of 48.1% ABV, the Glenfiddich Vintage Reserve 1973 has a RRP of £250 for a 70cl bottle, complete with an oak presentation box and will be available in the UK from glenfiddich.co.uk and internationally from the end of August.

The Glenfiddich range of single malt Scotch whiskies include the Glenfiddich Special Reserve 12 Year Old, Glenfiddich Caoran Reserve 12 Year Old, Glenfiddich Solera Reserve 15 Year Old, Glenfiddich Ancient Reserve 18 Year Old, Glenfiddich Gran Reserva 21 Year Old, Glenfiddich 30 Year Old and a number of rare whiskies and limited editions.

Tasting Notes:

Colour – Rich amber

Nose – Rich oak notes mingled with a subtle nuttiness and gentle sherried sweetness. Delicate fruity aromas develop on addition of a little water.

Taste – A silky texture in the mouth delivers a beautifully sweet and spicy sensation. The flavour develops into gentle oakiness with hints of walnuts, almonds and dried fruits.

Finish – Warm & lingering

Comment – This Glenfiddich has matured for over thirty years in a Spanish oak sherry cask. It has all the elegance of Glenfiddich with additional luscious aromas and flavours extracted from the sherry cask.

ENDS

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Notes to editors

- *Gold Medals – International Wine & Spirit Competition 2005 (Best in Class) and International Spirits Challenge 2005.
- William Grant & Sons Ltd is an award-winning independent family-owned distiller founded by William Grant in 1886 and today run by his direct descendants. 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 Reyka® vodka, distilled at Iceland's first 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