



# *The* **LAST DROP**

If you drink only one more glass of whisky...



...drink this one... *before there is no more*

# THE LAST DROP

**T**hree giants of the spirit world have decided to share their expertise with a few special connoisseurs. Having formed a little company called The Last Drop Distillers Limited, they are bottling, one by one, a few of their collection of fabulous old casks from remote cellars all over Scotland.

These are all entirely unique, chosen by the partners for their exquisite purity and taste. Perhaps because the partners themselves are all extremely old – between them they have clocked up more than 120 years in the Scotch whisky industry – they prefer whiskies that have spent a lot of time in the cask.

This bottling (of 1,347 bottles only) is a splendid example of their craft. The whisky was distilled in 1960, and many of the distilleries from which it came have long since ceased to exist. When it reached the age of 12 years, it was blended and put back into new sherry casks. And there it lay for the next 36 years, evaporating slowly until less than a third of its volume remained, and drawing richness, smoothness and fragrance from the old wood.

This superb whisky has been bottled by hand, straight from the cask, with no chilling, filtering, dilution or colouring. The relatively low proof (of approximately 54.4%) is a sign of its extreme age. It is corked and sealed with wax. Sold in a presentation case, which contains a 50ml miniature, also wax sealed, and a cork stopper for resealing once the bottle is opened.



**Tom Jago** came from a village school, via Oxford and the wartime navy, to find his niche in the wine and spirits trade. His creative contributions to that world have been unique. With his partners James Espey and Peter Fleck he led the team that developed such famous brands as Croft Original Pale Cream Sherry, Le Piat D'Or, Baileys Irish Cream, Malibu and many others.

Tom and his team worked on some of the most famous names in Scotch whisky; intimate experience of such names as Johnnie Walker Blue Label, The Classic Malts, Chivas Regal 18 year old, Royal Lochnagar and Chivas Bros Revolve helped hone his palate in the nuances and subtleties of fine Scotch whisky. Along the way he has wandered down many secret pathways, leading to astonishing finds of old, lost casks which now make up The Last Drop.



**James Espey** has been a director of major international whisky companies for almost forty years, his career covering distinguished service with Gilbeys, International Distillers and Vintners, United Distillers and Seagram. He is today a director of Whyte & Mackay. He has contributed notably to the creation and development of many of the world's greatest Scotch whisky brands – names like J&B Rare, Johnnie Walker, Dewars, Chivas Regal and dozens of others. He is also creator and founder of The Keepers of the Quaich, a proud and powerful society promoting Scotch whisky around the world.

Since 1992, he has served on the Council of the Scotch Whisky Association. In 1991 he was awarded the International Wine and Spirit Scotch Whisky Lifetime Achievement award for his contribution to the Scotch Whisky Industry; only the third person ever to have received this honour.



**Peter Fleck** has spent his life in the drink trade of South Africa, moving from the wine side to spirits, at Gilbeys (now part of Diageo). He created many local and international brands, the most famous being Malibu, which he originated and developed to international fame with his partners James Espey and Tom Jago.

He was responsible for the extraordinary growth of brands like Smirnoff Vodka, and later of J&B Rare Scotch and Chivas Regal. He now lives in the Cape where he consults for a number of international drinks companies.

# THE PRODUCT

We thought long and hard about how we should present the precious LAST DROP. And we thought that you, our prospective purchaser, would not be impressed by fancy wooden caskets; nor by exotic decanters. We reckoned that you would already have plenty of decanters, of a quality we could not hope to rival. So we opted for classical simplicity. And here it is.



*The presentation box contains the bottle itself, plus a descriptive brochure, a cork stopper for resealing the bottle when you have drawn the cork, and a bottle of 50ml, also sealed with wax.*



*The handsome black presentation box is branded with the company's monogram*



*Bottled by hand; every bottle is sealed with a driven cork, then protected with hot wax.*

# THE WHISKY

## THE LAST DROP 1960 BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY

**Date of Distillation** 1960  
**Filled into Fine Fresh Sherry Butts** 1972

This blended whisky is a perfect marriage of the choicest malt and grain whiskies available. Using somewhere in the region of seventy different malt whiskies – many from distilleries which now lie dormant or no longer exist – and twelve different grain whiskies, this blend has such complexity and balance that it can be truly classed a whisky of distinction. The richness of the resulting character is unrivalled.



# THE TASTE



Photograph courtesy of Finlandia vodka

## Ian Wisniewski (leading whisky authority and writer); tasting notes, November 2007

**Nose:** Big but balanced. Rich sherried notes, toffee and toastiness, then plums, prunes and dried fruit emerge, followed by dark chocolate and crème caramel.

**Palate:** Rich, velvety texture. Distinct dryness and light oakiness lead, then recede as sherried, plum, prune, crème caramel nuances emerge as an integrated package of flavours, followed by dark chocolate and digestive biscuits.

**Finish:** Rich, dried fruit, toastiness, sherried notes, cherry jam, extending with distinct oakiness and toastiness.

## Tom Jago; cellar notes, 14 January 2008

**Colour:** deep warm bronze, with pale 'green flash'\* against the light.

**Nose:** Complexity of chocolate, figs, pronounced vanilla; faintest echoes of peatsmoke; sherry wood emerges with added water. Personally I detected a memory of ancient bodegas.

**Taste:** Natural sweetness on the palate, then spice at the back of the mouth. Harmonious combination of new-mown hay, dried fruit, herbs and rich biscuits. The sherry cask has rounded this whisky to a complex whole. Really spicy, long finish. A great surprise is to find this whisky still so youthfully fresh after nearly fifty years in cask – I would almost say 'brisk'. Dwells in the mouth for an age.

If one leaves the last drop in the glass for a while, more profound nuances may emerge to the sensitive palate.

\* This effect is sometimes, but rarely, observed when a whisky has been a very long time in wood.



1. One of the old malt stills from which the Blend was drawn. We believe this to have been Milburn, near Inverness. It finally closed in 1983, but not before it had contributed its northern finesse to **The Last Drop**.



2. Feeding the kiln; nothing but peat was used by older distillers for their powerful Island malts. The result is there to delight the connoisseur's nose in **The Last Drop**.



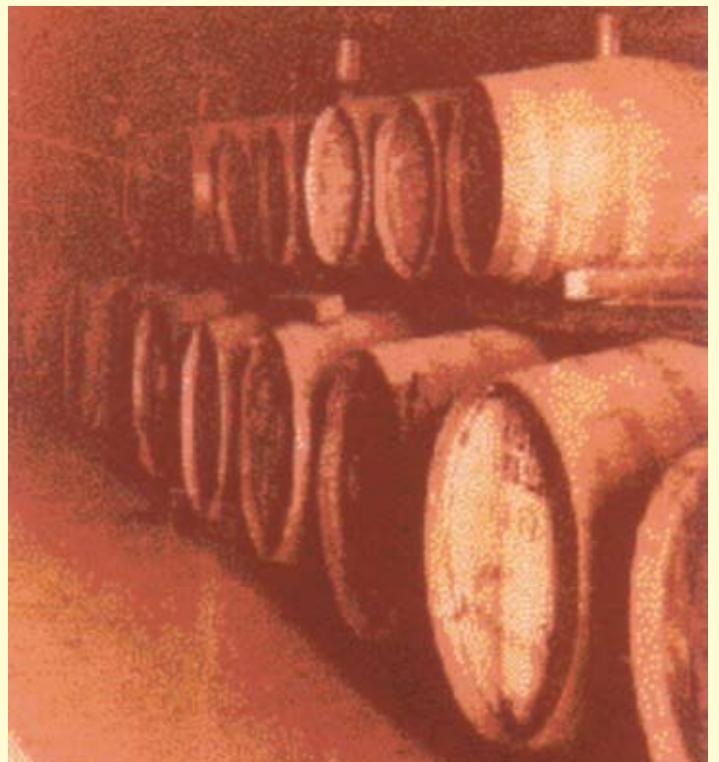
3. In their quest for lost whiskies, the partners explored many remote and simple communities. It was in this little shop, in rural Cuminstown, that Peter discovered a local blending, which led him eventually to the lost cask that became **The Last Drop**.



4. Over the sea to... the outer Isles, where peat smoke and driven salt spray condition the ageing whiskies. You will detect their influence when you savour **The Last Drop**.



5. The Road to the North. The three friends covered thousand of miles across roads like this in their search for **The Last Drop** – no real hardship in such wonderful scenery.



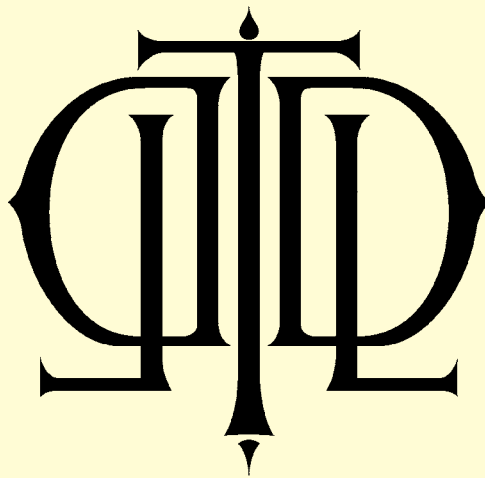
6. The old Dunnage Warehouse at Auchentoshan, where the sherry casks lay for so many years before being bottled as **The Last Drop**.



## SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Only 1,347 bottles came out of our sherry casks. Many of these have already been spoken for. Enquiries should be addressed to James Espey at the address below.

Specialist agents have been appointed for most countries, and their addresses can be found in the information sheet enclosed. If you need extra information about your area, please give us a ring. The recommended retail price is UK£1,400. Some duty free stores may offer slightly lower prices; it pays to look around.



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