



What Does John Know?



News & Views from John Hansell, Malt Advocate Publisher & Editor

Review: The Last Drop 1960 Vintage

July 30th, 2008

Three spirits industry veterans have teamed up to form The Last Drop Distillers Ltd. I met with them in New York on Monday, brought a sample home, and reviewed it yesterday. Their first release is a winner, for those who can afford it.

The Last Drop, 1960 vintage, 48 year old, 52%, \$2,000A 12 year old blended scotch whisky was created in 1972 consisting of 70 different malt whiskies and 12 grain whiskies. The blend was then placed in three sherry cask, where it was matured for the past 36 years (highly irregular, to say the least.) The quality of the sherry casks is quite evident, as is the whisky's age. There's substantial malt content here too. These three factors, along with the wide range of malt and grain whiskies, combine to create one of the finest blended Scotch whiskies I have ever tasted. It's dark, mysterious and enormously complex, with notes of molasses, fig cake, dried fruit, tobacco, dark chocolate, old pot still rum, and polished leather, finishing with lingering cinnamon and mint. There's no sign of this whisky getting tired at all. I am pleased they bottled it at natural cask strength and didn't water it down to 40% or 43% abv, which could have ruined it.

Release information: There's a total of 1,347 bottles, of which only 350 are being imported to the U.S. They can be found only at Binny's Beverage Depot (Chicago), Park Avenue Liquors (New York), and Wally's (Los Angeles).

Advanced Malt Advocate magazine rating: 95

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