

## Stories behind the Valinches...



### **I Was There!**<http://www.bruichladdich.com/bottles/iwasvalinch.jpg>

The First Valinch: To celebrate the reopening of the distillery and first distillation on 29th May 2001, the inaugural Valinch was released only to those present on that momentous day. This came from two American oak hogsheads distilled in 1970 and bears the signed and numbered "I was there" Valinch label. 250 bottles each at 48.2% and 45.5%

### **I Was There - but not *That* Day**

The second Valinch was a sister cask, also a sensational 1970 from American oak, with the same style label – but minus the magical "I was there!". This was available from 30th May 2001 to August 2001 at 47.3%

### **"The First Editions"**

This Valinch celebrated the launch of the New Bruichladdich 'First Edition' bottlings, offered for sale to visitors to the distillery in August 2001 until January 2002. It was distilled in 1986 and filled into an Oloroso Sherry Butt and was 53.5% alcohol. There were 1200 Valinches.

### **Distillery of the Year**

This Valinch, was available from January 2002 until May 2002. This was distilled in 1972, and filled in to an American Bourbon oak barrel number 9 and was at 48.8% alcohol. There were 250 Valinches from this sensational cask.

### **8:26**

To commemorate the anniversary of the first spirit 'run' at the reopening of the distillery cask number 1330 distilled in 1983 and filled into a refill Oloroso Sherry butt produced 826 signed Valinches for the Islay Festival 2002 from Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2002

### **Octomore Birth**

From November 2002 to honour the birth of Octomore on 3rd October 2002, the world's most heavily peated whisky ever at 80.5 PPM, this sherry butt was selected by Jim. Cask No 988 was distilled in 1990 and aged in a Refill Sherry - so not as dark as some have been - it was at 60.2% . There were 500 bottles available.

### **Bruichladdich Babe**

From May 29<sup>th</sup> 2003, The Islay festival, The Bruichladdich Babe. The Babe was the runt of the litter of rare Middle White Pigs that was rescued from certain death by housing in a Bruichladdich cask over winter. A remarkable recovery, and several litters later...



750 *Valinchs* of cask 930, distilled 24th August 1988 filled into a Sherry butt, now at 59.9 % Alcohol

### **The Harvey Hall**

On 29th May 2003 to commemorate the opening of the only bottling hall on Islay The Harvey Hall, in the presence of Sir John Mactaggart and Faith Muir, a descendant of William Harvey, the founder of the distillery. Producing



575 *Valinchs* (50cls) cask number 12 was distilled 16th February 1984, filled in to Bourbon wood, and was at 53.3 % alcohol.

### **“Malt of the Year”**

To celebrate the Malt of the Year award from The Malt Advocate for the Bruichladdich Vintage 1970.

From 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2003 to the end of November 2003 cask 1132 from the 1988 vintage was chosen. There were 300 *Valinchs* at 56.2% alcohol.

### **“40 Not Out”**

To celebrate Jim's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Whisky Industry. This was available from 24th September 2003 to January 2004, the *Valinch* was Cask 160 distilled in 1989 and aged in refill sherry wood, and produced 300 *Valinchs* at 56% alcohol

### **Flora McBabe**

The continuing saga of the miraculous escape of The Babe's offspring. It was available from 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2003 and lasted up until mid September 2004. Cask 3666 distilled in 1990 matured in Refill Sherry Butt, produced 700 *Valinchs* at 55.2%

### **Wee George**

To commemorate Ieach Lord Robertson of Port Ellen's promotion to Secretary General of NATO cask 1009 distilled in 1989 and filled in to a Refill Sherry Hogshead produced 390 *Valinchs* between May 29<sup>th</sup> 2004 to beginning of August 2004 at 54.8%. 10 were signed By Lord Robertson.

### **Grandpa John**

Commemorating the death of John Gourlay Harvey, born September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1918, know as Grand Pa John, a grandson of the founder of Bruichladdich, William Harvey. Cask 451 distilled in 1990 and filled into a Refill Sherry Hogshead produced 350 *Valinchs* from beginning October 2004 until 24th March 2005 at 56.3%

### **Red to Black**

Celebrating the first profit recorded by the company since its incorporation in 2001 cask 1031 distilled in 1990 and filled into a Refill Bourbon Hogshead between 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005 until mid May 2005 produced 400 *Valinchs* at 56.0%

### **The Queen's Award**

To celebrate the honour of the Queen's Award for Export cask number 944 distilled in 1989 and filled in to a Refill Sherry hogshead from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005 produced 344 *Valinchs* at 55.7%

### **The Purist Whisky in Scotland**

To celebrate the recognition of Bruichladdich 10, Fifteen and XVII as the purest whiskies in Scotland with zero off notes or bad tastes. Cask 710 was selected, distilled in 1990 and filled into Refill Bourbon Hogshead from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 until mid August 2005 produced 350 *Valinchs* at 55.5%

### **Islay Festival Bloodtub**

Four Murray McDavid whiskies were selected for the Islay festival and filled into 30 litre 'bloodtubs': Ardbeg from cask 643, distilled in 1991 and bottled at 57.4%. Laphroaig from cask 9204 distilled in 1988, bottled at 54.9%. Caol Ila from cask 1 distilled bottled at 55.1%. And Cooley from cask 35 distilled in 1993 and bottled at 58.5%

### **Viking Visit**

To commemorate the visit of Gaia, the 75 foot replica Viking Longboat on passage from Oslo to the Isle of Man, cask number 716 distilled in 1990 and filled into Refill bourbon squat started beginning August 2005 produced 348 Valinchs at 54.9%

### **Crown Prince of Tonga**

To celebrate the impromptu visit of the Crown Prince of Tonga cask number 1880 distilled in 1989 into an American barrel, started 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 produced 330 Valinchs at 57%, The cask was ACEd in rum barrel, signed by the Prince. This cask finished on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

### **Changing the Guard**

To celebrate the award from the Queen at Buckingham Place cask number 5 distilled in 1989 and filled into an American barrel, started on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005 produced 420 Valinchs at 53.1%. The cask was ACEd in a Hermitage Blanc wine cask. This cask was finished on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

### **Cotes du Rhinns**

The first of three valinches for our Feis Ile day 2006 and our 125th Anniversary. Cask number 7, distilled 1989. Currently in a Guigal Hermitage Syrah cask it is expected to produce 430 valinches at 53.0%. This cask was finished on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

### **The Drambusters**

The Drambusters are an Islay affiliated acrobatic flying team headed by Gary Taylor They fly Yaks - the plane (not plain) variety - Russia's finest military training aircraft designed by A.S. Yakovlev to take a 360 HP 9 cylinder radial engine. These machines are as robust as the pilots: solidly build but dextrous; good at barrel rolls and looping the loop and can be thirsty. Bourbon cask number 473, distilled 1990. This cask was finished on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### **The Mayor of Islay**

The Rhinns Peninsular shouldn't be here at all. It is three times older than the rest of Islay. It was torn off what is today the Arequipa coast of Peru 750 million years ago and by a process of late tectonic pin-ball has ended up in its present position. That old Inca settlement shares the same geology and spookily the same name of Islay.

The Islay Doppelgänger may be 6000 miles away but it also shares beautiful sandy beaches, outstanding ocean coastline. Equally, the main industries are tourism fishing, farming - and distilling.

Miguel Roman Valdivera is the Mayor of Islay (Peru)

This is Sherry cask number 1184 from 1988 and is 58.5%.

This cask was finished on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### **The Queen's 80th Birthday 2006**

Distilled 1988 and filled into sherry casks, cask 1192 has been specially selected by Jim McEwan to celebrate the Queen's 80th Birthday 2006. At a strength of 56.3% and with only 300 bottles available.