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For immediate release

Inver House Distillers toasts 13 awards at the Scotch Whisky Masters 2008

Inver House Distillers, which recently won the prestigious title of 'International Distiller of the Year', is celebrating further success, having picked up no fewer than 13 awards at the **Scotch Whisky Masters 2008**.

These prestigious accolades, which include several gold, silver and a coveted 'Masters' Award for their range of single malts, were presented at a glittering awards ceremony on 21 May, adding yet more trophies to the Airdrie-based company's growing collection – not least 'International Distiller of the Year', which was won despite impressive competition from exceptional companies throughout the world.

Entries to the Scotch Whisky Awards are blind-tasted by a panel of prestigious judges, including Spirits Business editor Patience Gould. The accolades presented to Inver House Distillers' malts comprised eight awards for the quality of the whiskies' tastes and five awards for the high standard of the design and packaging.

With a reputation for a fresh and innovative approach to Scotch whisky, Inver House Distillers has not only been recognised at the Scotch Whisky Masters, it has also recently revealed a 107% increase in pre-tax profits and won '*World's best Scotch blended whisky*' for its rare Hankey Bannister 40-Years-Old blend at the World Whisky Awards.

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The awards that Inver House Distillers was presented with at the Scotch Whisky Masters 2008 are as follows:

- Old Pulteney 21-Years-Old (**'Master Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies up to 25 years old)
- Old Pulteney 12-Years-Old (**'Gold Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies up to 12 years old)
- Balblair 1989 (**'Gold Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies up to 25 years old)
- Balblair 1975 (**'Gold Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies over 25 years old)
- Speyburn 10-Years-old (**'Gold Award'** for Speyside whiskies up to 12 years old)
- Speyburn 25-Years-old Solera (**'Gold Award'** for Speyside whiskies up to 25 years old)
- Old Pulteney 17-Years-Old (**'Silver Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies up to 18 years old)
- Balblair 1997 (**'Silver Award'** for Highlands & Islands whiskies up to 12 years old)
- Balblair 1997, 1989 and 1975 (**'Gold Awards'**, Design & Packaging Awards)
- anCnoc 12-Years-Old and 16-Years-Old Highland Single Malts (**'Silver Awards'**, Design & Packaging Awards)

Old Pulteney Single Malt, also known as 'The Genuine Maritime Malt', is produced in Wick at the most northerly distillery on the Scottish mainland, giving the malt a hint of sea air and a dry, medium-bodied and smooth taste. Its 12-year-old, 17-year-old and 21-year-old – were all recognised with awards.

Balblair Highland Single Malt Whisky is a super-premium, contemporary Scotch whisky brand, which takes a vintage approach (it is chosen by optimum 'year', in a similar way to wine). With each of the three core Balblair vintages having won awards – 1997, 1989 and 1975 – the whisky is characterised not only by its striking look but also by notes of vanilla, warm toffee and fruits.

anCnoc Single Malt is the contemporary malt of the arts, having supported many art-orientated venues, festivals and productions. It's sleek, modern packaging and approachable taste has seen sales rise significantly over the last three years.

Speyburn is a top ten single malt in the U.S and a classic Speyside malt. Situated in the heart of famous Speyside region of the Scottish Highlands, Speyburn is the only distillery to use the fresh spring water of the Granty Burn, a tributary to the River Spey.

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Karen Walker, marketing manager at Inver House Distillers, commented: *“This has been an absolutely superb 12 months for Inver House Distillers. From being named International Distiller of the Year to picking up no fewer than 13 awards at the Scotch Whisky Masters, our whiskies are going from strength to strength, thanks not only to their quality but also to the passion and enthusiasm of the team behind them.*

“This is an exciting time for the industry and for all of us at Inver House . We’re very proud to produce some of the very best Single Malts and are absolutely dedicated to supporting the growth of Scotch whisky through innovation and fresh thinking.”

Further information about the Awards and winners is available at: www.thedrinksbusiness.com

Photographs show: Karen Walker (Inver House Distillers’ Marketing Manager); the Inver House Distillers’ brands that were presented with awards at the Scotch Whisky Masters 2008

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Inver House Distillers has been described as having ‘shown the most commitment to the development of whisky at all levels’ and has an enviable standing and refreshingly original approach. Increasingly recognised as one of the industry’s most innovative companies, Inver House has developed a diverse, high quality portfolio of brands, which contributed to Inver House being named as International Distiller of the Year at the Icons of Whisky Awards in February 2008.

With headquarters based near Airdrie in Scotland, the company has five distilleries – Pulteney, Balblair, Speyburn, Knockdhu and Balmenach – that each produces their own distinctive, individual single malt whisky. Currently sold to 85 countries worldwide, Inver House’s products include:

- Old Pulteney – one of the UK’s top 15 single malts, this flagship brand is known as ‘The Genuine Maritime Malt’ and reputed as one of Scotland’s finest whiskies. Old Pulteney also supports an exciting programme of sailing and maritime events

- Balblair Highland Single Malt Whisky – premium vintage whisky inspired by its Pictish roots but with a contemporary design and international focus
- anCnoc – boutique malt and key supporter of the arts and creative industries
- Speyburn – a classic Speyside malt whisky, which has established itself as the 6th largest selling malt brand in the USA

Inver House Distillers also produces a range of blended malts, blends, vodka, gins and liqueurs, such as Scotland's Original Cream Liqueur, Heather Cream.