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INVER HOUSE DISTILLERS TOASTS BENEFITS OF SHIFT INTO INTERBEV

Inver House Distillers, one of the whisky industry's fastest growing companies, has today (Monday 30th October) announced that it is to become a fully owned subsidiary of International Beverage Holdings Ltd (InterBev), the international arm of Thai Beverages Plc (ThaiBev) – producers of Chang Beer and one of the largest alcohol beverage companies in Southeast Asia.

The acquisition marks an exciting new chapter in the development of Inver House, bringing the benefits of integration into a multi-beverage group of companies with international distribution platforms and sales networks.

The Inver House shift coincides with InterBev's acquisition of Hong Kong based Chinese wine and spirit distributor Best Spirits Company Ltd, which has also been confirmed today.

Inver House Distillers will now work in partnership with the InterBev team, both in Hong Kong and in other parts of Southeast Asia, driving activity in multiple beverage categories and offering a wider portfolio for the company's customer base.

The deal will also bring an increased focus on the development of Inver House Distillers' brand portfolio, building on the success of its distinctive Single Malt Scotch Whiskies Old Pulteney, Balblair, anCnoc, Speyburn and Balmenach, plus a range of whisky blends, Heather Cream liqueur and other spirits such as Kulov Imperial Vodka and Coldstream London Gin.

This success is most evident with regard to the company's flagship Single Malt Whisky brand, Old Pulteney. Produced in Wick at the UK's most northerly mainland distillery, it has enjoyed growing sales volume and international acclaim, winning a clutch of prestigious industry awards in 2006 and building consumer demand through its 'Genuine Maritime Malt' positioning, supported by a dynamic brand communication and sailing sponsorship programme.

As part of Hong-Kong based InterBev, Inver House will join a stable of dynamic international alcohol beverage brands, most notably Chang Beer – current sponsors of Everton Football Club in the UK - Mekhong Rum and Sangsom Rum.



Operations at Inver House's Airdrie headquarters and at its five distilleries across Scotland will be unchanged for the company's 150 Scottish-based staff.

Inver House Managing Director, Graham Stevenson is looking forward to taking the company's already successful brands to a new level in the global market. *'Our Single Malt Whisky brands and our blends are currently growing in terms of stature and volume, both in the UK and abroad, thanks to the dedicated team we have working in the business. The shift into InterBev will allow us to capitalise on this success, and it will make an enormous difference in terms of improving our route to market and facilitating exciting brand development and expansion in the future.'*

InterBev President, Barrie Jackson commented: *'This is an exciting time for InterBev, and we are looking forward to fully integrating Inver House into our operations. Their brands are growing fast and have a reputation for quality and distinction, in particular Single Malt Whiskies such as Old Pulteney, which has had a fantastic year in terms of sales and industry and consumer recognition. Our focus is now on working together to drive the business and its products at home and internationally.'*

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Note to Editors

Inver House Distillers Ltd

Inver House Distillers was founded in 1964, originally supplying the US market with the Inver House Green Plaid brand of Blended Scotch Whisky. In 1988 the company was the subject of a management buyout and embarked on a period of growth which included the acquisition of five malt whisky distilleries – Pulteney, Balblair, Knockdhu, Speyburn and Balmenach. It was then purchased by the Pacific Spirits UK in 2001. Based in Airdrie, Inver House exports to over 80 countries worldwide and is active in distillation warehousing and blending, with facilities for 500,000 barrels of whisky plus state of the art blending and laboratory facilities. Inver House has enjoyed steady growth year on year, with an increase in turnover of 8 per cent in 2005.



International Beverage Holdings Ltd (InterBev)

InterBev was established in 2003 to support the export and international business development of Thai Beverages Plc (ThaiBev), and aims to be the leading Asian international drinks company through the development of key markets around the world. It has established operations in its home country as well as in Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, the UK and North America, exporting brands to over 80 countries globally. Bangkok based ThaiBev employs 20,000 people and enjoys a 60 per cent share of the Thai beer market and a 74 per cent share of the Thai spirits market. The company was listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange in May 2006.