



*4th August 2008*

*For immediate release*

## **Inver House Distillers claims 11 medals at the International Spirits Challenge 2008**

Multi-award winner Inver House Distillers, which recently claimed the prestigious title of 'International Distiller of the Year', is celebrating yet more success, having collected an astonishing **11 medals** at the **International Spirits Challenge 2008**.

Closely following the distillers' recent wins of 13 medals at the Scotch Whisky Masters Awards and 15 awards at the International Wine & Spirits Competition, this multitude of successes makes the Airdrie-based company one of Scotland's most prolific whisky industry award winners of 2008.

The International Spirits Challenge - now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year - promotes spirits from around the world. Each year, nearly one thousand spirits from across the globe are rigorously judged and tasted by the industry's leading international spirits experts, many of whom have flown in for the occasion from other countries.

The accolades that Inver House was awarded at the International Spirits Challenge 2008 comprise two coveted Gold medals, three Silver medals and six Bronze medals.

With a reputation for a fresh and innovative approach to Scotch whisky, Inver House Distillers has not only been recognised at the International Spirits Challenge, the International Wine & Spirits Competition and the Scotch Whisky Masters, it also revealed a 107% increase in pre-tax profits in

April 2008 and won 'World's best Scotch blended whisky' for its rare Hankey Bannister 40-Years-Old blend at the World Whisky Awards.

**The awards that Inver House Distillers was presented with at the International Spirits Challenge 2008 are as follows:**

- **Balblair Vintage 1975 – Gold Medal**
- **Balblair Vintage 1989 – Bronze Medal**
- **Balblair Vintage 1986 – Bronze Medal**
- **Balblair Vintage 1997 – Bronze Medal**
- **Hankey Bannister 40-Year-Old – Gold Medal**
- **Hankey Bannister 21-Year-Old – Silver Medal**
- **Old Pulteney 12-Year-Old – Silver Medal**
- **Old Pulteney 17-Year-Old – Bronze Medal**
- **Speyburn 10-Year-Old – Silver Medal**
- **anCnoc 16-Year-Old – Bronze Medal**
- **anCnoc 12-Year-Old – Bronze Medal**

**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.

**Balblair Highland Single Malt Scotch 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). The whisky is characterised not only by its striking look, but also by notes of vanilla, warm toffee and fruits.

**anCnoc Single Malt Scotch Whisky** 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.

**Hankey Bannister** is Inver House Distillers' blended malt Scotch whisky. Expert blending of only the finest individual malt whiskies available have resulted in a light, subtle blend - clean, sweet and spicy, giving a full flavour with honeyed tones and a pleasant lasting finish.

Karen Walker, marketing manager at Inver House Distillers, commented: *“The International Spirits Challenge is a high-profile and prestigious competition and for us to have been presented with eleven medals is enormously exciting for the team. This competition is judged by a panel of global experts, so our wins are testament both to the passion and enthusiasm of our team and the quality of our brands.”*

Further information about the awards is available at: [www.internationalspiritschallenge.com](http://www.internationalspiritschallenge.com)

Photographs show: A selection of the award-winning Inver House Distillers’ brands

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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 Scotch 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.