



HONG KONG WHISKY FESTIVAL 2018

For the third year running, the highly anticipated Whisky Festival was once again held at the InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong and co-organised with Tiffany's New York Bar – a popular venue with many movers and shakers.

Attendance figures show that more than 1,900 eager aficionados took part on the day. All attracted by the leading brands with over 500 different whisky expressions, and by the 40 masterclasses that were hosted by diverse brand ambassadors. It is the largest whisky event in Hong Kong ever with over 120 whisky brands participating.

Apart from well-known Scottish and Japanese whiskies, the Festival also showcased brands from Taiwan, France, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, India, the USA and The Netherlands to name just a few.

Approximately 40 masterclasses were hosted by leading whisky ambassadors. In fine form, Charlie Maclean, the renowned whisky expert and consultant for leading whisky brands, shared his enthusiasm and knowledge by hosting not one but two masterclasses.

And attendants at the masterclass conducted by Richard Urquhart from Gordon & MacPhail had a rare treat with samplings of very rare whiskies from the brand that had been aged for a minimum of half a century – an occasion to remember and one which many of the participants will only ever try once in a lifetime.

There were also more whiskey brands exhibiting from the USA with Tiffany's New York Bar being converted into an adventure playground for attendees to learn about American whiskey and bourbons where they were able to taste the range of Tennessee sipping whiskeys from the Jack Daniel's family as well as the various expressions of Woodford Reserve from Kentucky alongside a selection of



American whiskey cocktails made by a team of cocktail maestros.

Meanwhile, ensconced attractively in the alfresco garden lounge of Tiffany's New York Bar, the crew from Johnnie Walker Black Label held court with its rejuvenating and refreshing modern highball cocktails made by award-winning mixologists. These libations were eagerly received by both participants and professionals alike with queues forming around the block.

As an added bonus, attendees were treated to the latest trends from Japan with dazzling Japanese master mixologist Hiroyasu Kayama from Ben Fiddich Bar, Tokyo, who concocted some original and exclusive cocktail creations.

During the event, there were Special Bottlings as well as New Releases, Old and Rare and some Exclusive Bottlings. Shortlisted whiskies included Highland Park The Light, Highland Park The Dark, and Highland Park Full Volume. Also attracting a lot of attention were Glenmorangie Spios and The Macallan

Exceptional Single Cask.

Sadly we didn't find time to try the Gordon & Macphail Longmorn 1967, or the Gordon & Macphail Glen Grant 1954 – but we did find the Gordon & Macphail Strathisla 1949, and it was a magical moment indeed.

At the end of a very happy day, we asked John Drummond, the Resident Manager and esteemed Whisky Ambassador of InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong how it went.

Smilingly, he told us, "It was an overwhelming success for this year's event. We were and are happy to see all the happy faces return to the Hong Kong Whisky Festival year after year. It's a welcome reward for all our hard work – and that of our partners. And for the brand ambassadors who took time to share and celebrate the world of whisky with us. We are looking forward to bringing another amazing whisky show to Hong Kong again next year."

And, a jolly good time was had by all!