Press Release

SCOTLAND'S MOST EXPERIENCED MALT MASTER NAMED WHISKY ICON

Lifetime achievement award for William Grant & Sons David Stewart
after 46 years of dedication to his craft

The longest serving Master Blender and Malt Master in Scotch whisky, William Grant & Sons' David Stewart, was last night the toast of the whisky industry, as he collected a Lifetime Achievement Award The Whisky Magazine Icons of Whisky Awards for his contributions and accomplishments throughout a distinguished career.

In the 46 years since he joined independent, family-owned William Grant & Sons, David has personally overseen the distiller's award-winning range of single malts and blends: Glenfiddich, the world's most awarded single malt, the handcrafted whiskies of The Balvenie Distillery and Grant's Blended Scotch, the world's favourite family owned blend. He has been responsible for a number of industry firsts, earning him some of whisky's top accolades and helping William Grant & Sons become Distiller of the Year an unprecedented three times in a row. His key achievements include the development of The Balvenie DoubleWood 12 Year Old - the first single malt to be finished in different woods and Glenfiddich 15 Year Old, the first single malt created using Solera maturation system.

David's pioneering spirit and dedication to his craft, coupled with his modest, unassuming manner has made him one of the best-loved and respected craftsmen in the business. Born in Ayr on the west coast of Scotland in 1945, David Stewart started work at William Grant & Sons as an apprentice in 1962, the year before Single Malt Scotch Whisky was first commercially and officially exported to England, when Glenfiddich effectively established the single malt market outside Scotland. Following a 12 year apprenticeship at the independent family distillers, David was appointed Master Blender of William Grant & Sons in 1974; a position he has held ever since. Characteristically modest, David celebrated his 45th anniversary in the industry in 2008 in his own style - by quietly creating his own interpretation of his signature single malt, The Balvenie Signature, Aged 12 Years.

Collecting his award in London David said "I'm absolutely delighted and very flattered to be singled out for this award, but credit must also go to the craftsmen and my friends at William Grant & Sons, whose dedication and passion for whisky making has been a constant source of inspiration to me during my career in the company".

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Photo caption: William Grant & Sons' award-winning Malt Master and Master Blender, David Stewart, at The Balvenie Distillery in Speyside Scotland. The Balvenie Signature Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 12 Years was created by David to celebrate his 45 years in whisky making.

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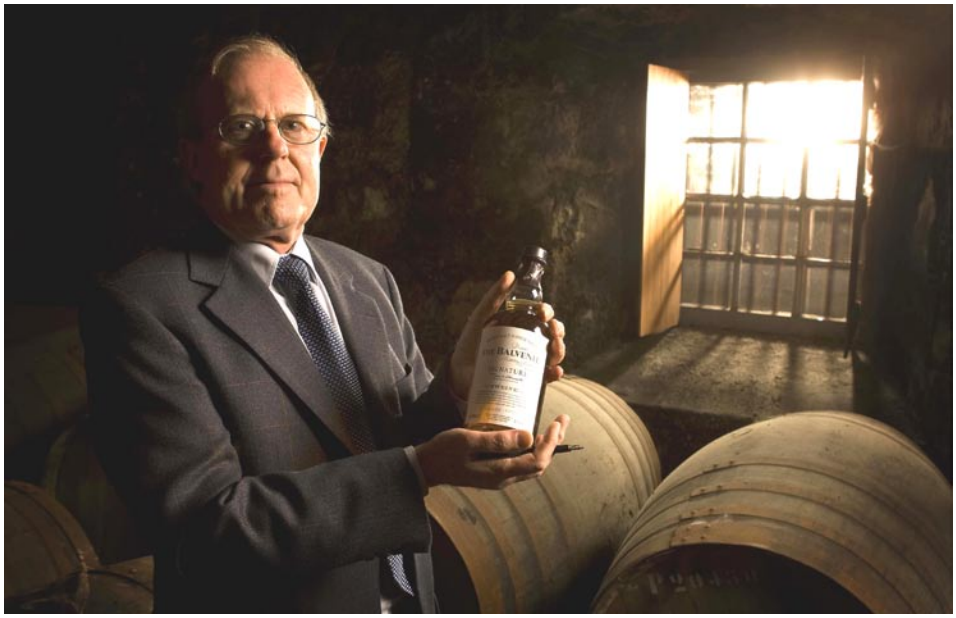

Notes to editors

- Reigning ISC Distiller of the Year William Grant & Sons Ltd was most recently awarded seven gold medals at both the 2008 International Spirits Challenge (ISC) and the 2008 International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) and for its highly regarded portfolio of premium spirits brands.

- William Grant & Sons is an independent family-owned distiller founded by William Grant in 1886 and today still controlled by the fifth generation of his family. The Company distils some of the world's leading brands of Scotch whisky, including the world's favourite single malt Glenfiddich®, the handcrafted range of The Balvenie® single malts and one of the world's top blended Scotches, Grant's®, as well as selected other spirits, including Hendrick's® Gin and Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum.

- Click on www.williamgrant.com for more information on the Company and its brands

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