

Press release

7th February 2013

OLDEST KARIUZAWA SINGLE CASK BOTTLED: LIMITED EDITION 1964 IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR POLAND

Cask #3603 from Karuizawa, filled on 1st September 1964 and bottled on Christmas Eve 2012, is one of the oldest Japanese single malt whiskies in history. At the time of bottling it was the oldest expression of the now-closed Karuizawa. Only 143 individually-numbered bottles will be available.

Number One Drinks Company acquired the last casks of Karuizawa in August 2011 and this is one of the legendary distillery's most ancient casks. Matured for over 48 years in a 400 litre sherry oak cask, the whisky lay undisturbed in a traditional dunnage warehouse at Karuizawa before being transferred to Chichibu where it was bottled at cask strength (57.7% abv). It is naturally coloured and non-chill filtered to retain maximum flavour, mouth feel and integrity. Cask #3603 is one of the very few Karuizawa casks left from the 1960s.

Karuizawa matures magnificently over an extended period, as shown by this bottling.

- "Absolutely top drawer whisky and a treat from start to finish. 94/100," observed prolific whisky author Dominic Roskrow.
- "First, it's brilliant whisky, and second, it's 'different' whisky. Respect. 95/100," added Serge Valentin, a whisky expert and Malt Maniac, who recently named Karuizawa as one of only six Grand Cru Classé single malts in his personal ranking.
- "It's fairly common to compliment mature whiskies on how young and vibrant they are despite their old age. This 1964 Karuizawa is far beyond such platitudes. Only time and a large dose of luck could have conspired to make this; a rare whisky that creates a world of its own and holds it together so beautifully, like an image of nature at its best," commented Stefan van Eycken, blogger and editor of Nonjatta, the leading Japanese whisky website.

As befits this extraordinary whisky, the presentation is exceptional. A bespoke, heavyweight version of the traditional Karuizawa bottle is housed in a dark wooden box with a front made of Polish black fossil oak. "The fossil oak is symbolic: the last part of the name 'Karuizawa' means swamp. This oak is hundreds of years old and has been recovered from ancient Polish swamps," said Marcin Miller, Managing Director of Number One Drinks Company. Each bottle is presented with a specially commissioned book by Dave Broom, the leading authority on Japanese whisky, who states: "Karuizawa is Japanese whisky unlike any other. It is big, it is bold, it has solidity and weight, it is richly fruited, it revels in its oiliness, it has smoke, but has retained the very Japanese qualities of heightened aroma and precision of flavour."

This limited edition of Karuizawa whisky was bottled exclusively for clients of Wealth Solutions.

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Notes for Editors:

Karuizawa

Established in 1955 by Daikoku-budoshu, the distillery was located in the town of Karuizawa, a well-known Japanese holiday resort, located at the foot of Mount Asama, an active volcano. Karuizawa produced whisky on a small scale – almost exclusively for the domestic market – until 2000 when, sadly, production came to an end. Unfortunately for Karuizawa, its whisky only became famous worldwide after the stills fell silent. However, casks full of exceptional spirit continued to mature on site and Number One Drinks Company acquired the entire inventory in 2011. Consumers and critics continue to be beguiled by Karuizawa; in the last four years alone it has been awarded 12 gold medals by the Malt Maniacs.

Number One Drinks Company

Founded in August 2006, Number One Drinks Company imports and distributes Japan's finest whiskies throughout Europe and beyond. Devotees of Japanese whisky since the 1990s, the founders were keen to bring bottles from smaller, independent distillers to a wider international audience. As a result, the company now holds exclusive worldwide distribution rights for Chichibu and Hanyu as well as owning the entire Karuizawa inventory. The business is expanding into Japanese craft beer.

Dave Broom

An award-winning whisky author having written on the subject for over 25 years, Dave Broom has written eight books, two of which, *Drink!* and *Rum*, won the Glenfiddich Award for Drinks Book of the Year. He has also won the Glenfiddich Drinks Writer of the Year twice. Dave Broom is editor of the *Scotch Whisky Review*, editor-in-chief of *Whisky Magazine: Japan*, consultant editor to *Whisky Magazine* and a regular contributor of many international titles. Furthermore, he is chairman of the judges for the World Whiskies Awards (WWA). Dave Broom has been a member of the Malt Maniacs since 2005, is a Kentucky Colonel and was made a Master of the Quaich in 2011.

Wealth Solutions

Wealth Solutions was established in 2007 with a mission to provide unique products for Polish collectors and investors. It was created by real enthusiasts for luxury goods such as fine Bordeaux wines, top quality Scotch whisky and art. These assets are perceived not only as sound alternative investments but also as an important element of prestigious private collections and the luxury life style. Wealth Solutions is regarded as one of the top wine banking advisors in Europe. In 2012 Wealth Solutions had the great honour of introducing to its clients a limited edition 58-year-old whisky from Glenfarclas, the oldest spirit ever to leave the distillery.

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