



COOLEY
DISTILLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toast Saint Patrick with Ireland's Very Best

February 10, 2009 – Toronto. Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with one of the award-winning Irish whiskeys from Cooley Distillery, available in LCBO Vintages. In the prestigious 2008 International Wine and Spirits Competition, held in London, England, Cooley Distillery became the first Irish Distillery ever to win the coveted World and European Distiller of the Year Awards. These trophies are awarded to the distillery that demonstrates the highest quality in its range of spirits brands, which is exactly what Cooley, Ireland's only independent, Irish-owned distillery achieved winning 9 gold medals and 8 Best in Class beating tough competitors such as Hine Cognacs from France and numerous Single Malt distillers from Scotland.



Cooley Distillery was founded in 1987 by John Teeling, an Irish entrepreneur who was unhappy with the monopoly in Irish whiskey by only one producer and recognized the potential for a traditional, quality oriented distillery. He revived several historic brands including The Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey that had been so very popular in the United States prior to prohibition, and revived ancient distilling techniques such as using peat to dry malting barley leading to the creation of the family of Connemara Peated Single Malt Irish Whiskeys. Both of these fine whiskeys that won Best in Class Awards at the 2008 International Wine and Spirits Competition will be available through LCBO Vintages for Saint Patrick's Day.



Here is a complete list of the Cooley Distillery's "Best in Class" whiskeys that will be available for toasting the venerable Saint Paddy on his Day:

BLENDING WHISKEY:

Inishowen Peated Blended Irish Whiskey (\$37.95 #656017, 700 ml) Inishowen Irish whiskey is a unique blended whiskey as it is very lightly peated. It contains a number of different types of whiskey including Peated Malt whiskey, Malt whiskey and Grain whiskey. The peat is balanced giving a variety of flavours and another dimension to savour.

SINGLE GRAIN WHISKEY:

Greenore 8 Year Old Single Grain Irish Whiskey (\$65.95 #27953, 700 ml) - Grain whiskey is made from maize (corn) producing a beautifully smooth, sweet taste. When this is coupled with the creamy vanilla notes achieved from maturation in exclusively ex-bourbon casks, the result is the distinct taste of Greenore Single Grain Irish Whiskey. Greenore is one of only a handful of Single Grain whiskeys in the world and the only such whiskey from Ireland.

SINGLE MALT WHISKEYS:

Connemara Peated Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$63.95 #475921, 700 ml) This rare and original find among Irish whiskeys is a Peated Single Malt. Connemara revives the ancient tradition of drying malting barley using the smoke from peat. Connemara retains the smooth taste of an Irish but has a peated taste more associated with some Scotch whiskies. This unique and authentic Irish whiskey allows you to unearth the authentic character and taste of Ireland. Visit www.connemarawhiskey.com for more information.

The Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$52.95 #402396, 700 ml) Distilled in the old Irish tradition, this pure pot still Single Malt whiskey uses only the most natural Irish ingredients of barley and fresh spring water producing a beautifully balanced whiskey with distinctive smooth fruity palate. Named after a famous Irish race horse that won at odds of 100 to 1 in the Irish Derby, the branding of the horse is still visible on the label to this day. Visit www.tyrconnellwhiskey.com for more information.



Locke's 8 Year Old Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$62.95 #913475, 700 ml) -

The marrying of peated and non-peated malts contributes flavours of honey, oak, fruit, peat, as well as great mouth-feel and finish to this smooth whiskey.

Connemara 12 Year Old Single Malt (\$153.95 #695445, 700 ml) - From some the first distillates of Cooley's Peated Single Malt comes the small batch bottling of Connemara 12 Year Old. Every year a handful of casks are handpicked by Noel Sweeney, Cooley's Master Blender, that make up around 5,000 bottles of Connemara 12 Year Old that are released on a yearly basis. This multi-award winning whiskey gives Connemara consumers the ability to taste how extra aging brings out more character from the wood and rounds off the taste of the regular Connemara.

The Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Sherry Cask Finish Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$89 #55954, Vintages on-line exclusive, 700 ml) www.tyrconnellwhiskey.com – Tyrconnell Irish Single Malt whiskey is initially matured in American Oak barrels. The "finishing" of the whiskey takes place for a short period of time in barrels that had previously contained Sherry. This process results in the smooth, sweet and fruity Tyrconnell Irish Single Malt absorbing the best elements of the barrel's previous flavours. Voted Best in Class and awarded a Gold Medal at the 2008 IWSC.

The Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Madeira Cask Finish Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$89 #55939, Vintages on-line exclusive, 700 ml) www.tyrconnellwhiskey.com – Initially matured in American oak, this 10 Year Old Tyrconnell has been finished in Madeira casks further enriching its flavour. Awarded Irish Whiskey of the Year by Jim Murray in his 2008 Whiskey Bible. *"This is one of the best Madeira finishes I have ever come across. The balance defies belief while the higher notes makes one purr. I am astonished."* Jim Murray 2008 Whiskey Bible - Rating 95/100.

The Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Port Cask Finish Single Malt Irish Whiskey (\$89 #55913, Vintages on-line exclusive, 700 ml) www.tyrconnellwhiskey.com – Initially matured in American oak, this 10 Year Old Tyrconnell is then finished in Port casks allowing the whiskey to acquire character and flavour from both. *"This is like a fruit and nuts chocolate bar – without the nuts. Wonderful"* Jim Murray 2008 Whiskey Bible – Rating 93/100

Cooley Irish Whiskeys are available through LCBO Vintages. For store locations and availability, visit www.vintages.com

Purchase VINTAGES online exclusives at: www.vintagesshoponline.com

LCBO #	Whiskey	IWSC 2008 medal	bottle	retail price	date available through LCBO Vintages
55939	The Tyrconnell 10 YO Madeira Cask Finish	Gold	700 ml	\$89	now available - online exclusive
55913	The Tyrconnell 10 YO Port Cask Finish	Silver	700 ml	\$89	now available - online exclusive
55954	The Tyrconnell 10 YO Sherry Cask Finish	Gold & Best in Class	700 ml	\$89	now available - online exclusive
913475	Locke's 8 Year Old Single Malt	Gold & Best in Class	700 ml	\$62.95	14-Feb-09
27953	Greenore 8 Year Old Single Grain Irish Whiskey	Gold & Best in Class	700 ml	\$65.95	28-Feb-09
402396	The Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey	Silver & Best in Class	700 ml	\$52.95	14-Mar-09
695445	Connemara 12 Year Old Single Malt	Gold & Best in Class	700 ml	\$153.95	14-Mar-09
27946	Connemara Peated Single Malt Irish Whiskey	Gold & Best in Class	700 ml	\$63.95	14-Mar-09
656017	Inishowen Peated Blended Irish Whiskey	Silver	700 ml	\$37.95	14-Mar-09

For more information, interviews and photos contact

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A Few Drinking Tips

Food Pairings with Irish Whiskey

Whether served neat or with a small measure of quality still water in the glass, these whiskeys marry well with a range of cocktail hors d'oeuvres. They are perfect for a pre-dinner party starter or as the main event itself.

Suggestions include:

- Smoked fish canapés (i.e. smoked salmon, haddock, oysters and trout on toast points are always tremendous paired with whiskey, especially peated whiskey).
- Salmon tartar
- Whitebait (fish) “fries”
- Seared scallops on the half shell
- Cheddar scones or shortbreads
- Dark fruit cake or date squares

Cooley Distillery has garnered more awards over the last twelve years than any other Irish whiskey distillery.

2008 IWSC Awards won by Cooley Distillery		
Whiskey	Medal	commendation
Kilbeggan 15 Year Old	Gold	Best in Class
Greenore 8 Year Old Single Grain	Gold	Best in Class
Tyrconnell 15 Year Old	Gold	Best in Class
Locke's 8 Year Old Single Malt	Gold	Best in Class
Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Sherry Finish	Gold	Best in Class
Connemara Peated Single Malt	Gold	Best in Class
Connemara 12 Year Old Single Malt	Gold	Best in Class
Locke's Blended Irish Whiskey	Gold	Best in Class
Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Madeira Finish	Gold	
Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey	Silver	Best in Class
Tyrconnell 10 Yr Old Port Finish	Silver	
Kilbeggan	Silver	
Sainsbury's	Silver	
Inishowen Peated Blended Irish Whiskey	Silver	
Millars Special Reserve	Bronze	