



NEWS RELEASE

DISCUS is the trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United States.

Website: <http://www.distilledspirits.org>

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CONTACT: Frank Coleman or Shawn Kelley
(202) 682-8840

Master Distillers Create Unique American Whiskies at Mount Vernon Vatting Event

MOUNT VERNON – The Distilled Spirits Council and Historic Mount Vernon hosted a whiskey vatting and tasting event yesterday with master distillers on the grounds of Historic Mount Vernon.

The event featured the creation of a unique vatted American whiskey made from barrels of America's most famous whiskies, including Jack Daniel's, Jim Beam, Maker's Mark, Wild Turkey and others which have been aging at an undisclosed location on the grounds at Mount Vernon.

At the event, Joe Dangler from Virginia Gentleman, Ron Call from Cruzan Rum and Dave Pickerell from Maker's Mark opened casks of the various brands that had been aging at the Mount Vernon estate under a special license and "married" the whiskies together, creating a distinct "vatted" American whiskey. The newly created whiskey was then placed in new casks and returned to its undisclosed location. A limited edition of 250 bottles will be bottled and sold on September 28th, 2005, to benefit Mount Vernon's educational mission.

"Whiskey production became an important part of the history of George Washington's business activities at Mount Vernon when he built a successful distillery after he left the presidency," said Frank Coleman, Senior Vice President of the Distilled Spirits Council.

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The Council, along with the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, are funding a \$2 million excavation and reconstruction of Washington's distillery, which will be completed in late 2006.

On September 28th, 2005, representatives from Historic Mount Vernon and the Council will lay a cornerstone of sandstone from the original United States Capitol for the reconstructed distillery. On that day, rum distillers from the U.S. and its territories will produce an 18th century style rum on the grounds of the historic estate.

The reconstructed distillery will operate as a museum, demonstrating 18th century distilling techniques and will also serve as a "gateway" to the American Whiskey Trail®. For more information on the trail, please visit www.americanwhiskeytrail.com.

Photos of today's event are available.