

Rare whisky fetches £100,000

New record for industry set by sale of two bottles of 64-year-old Whyte & Mackay single malt for £100,000 each

- [Zoe Wood](#)
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It is enough to make you spill your drink. But at more than £3,500 a dram or £7,000 for a double, you wouldn't want to waste a drop of Dalmore 64 – or worse still, pick up the tab at the bar.

Whyte & Mackay has set a new record for the industry, selling two bottles of its 64-year-old Dalmore Trinitas malt at £100,000 each – the first time the price for a single bottle of malt has gone into six figures.

Only three bottles of the Trinitas malt were ever produced at Dalmore on the shores of the Cromarty firth, pushing up the price for the buyers, US property developer and [whisky](#) collector Mahesh Patel, and Sukhinder Singh, who runs the Whisky Exchange brokerage in the UK.

The tasting notes suggest that it's not just the price that is special, describing a "highly complex" bouquet offering the "lingering sensation of vino dulce muscatel, treacle toffee, soft liquorice and roasted coffee", among other flavours.

Whyte & Mackay's chief executive, John Beard, likened the market for limited edition single malts to that for valuable clarets. He said: "There is an emerging whisky investment market for high net worth individuals. This is a huge leap on from our previous record [£32,000 for Dalmore 62] and as we have already sold two, I am wondering if we have priced it high enough."

While still a (relatively) poor relation to wine, against a backdrop of volatile stock markets, there is growing investor appetite for rare whiskies. In one example of returns possible, Glenfiddich 1937, a 64-year-old malt, is changing hands for £50,000, five times its price when it was launched as many years ago by owner William Grant.

Scotch whisky exports are at record levels as drinkers in emerging markets like China, India and Brazil adopt the drink as a symbol of their growing wealth and status.

Whyte & Mackay is owned by India's answer to Richard Branson – the drinks to airline billionaire Vijay Mallya, with the tycoon's home market seen to be a huge opportunity for the Scottish industry. The niche investment market began to take off in the early 1990s with several companies launching limited-edition single malts after stumbling over casks that had been overlooked. Those that attract the highest price are aged malts that are in very limited supply or from distilleries that are now closed.