



KYSELA PERE et FILS, LTD.

130 Windy Hill Lane • Suite W5-12/12A • Winchester, VA 22602
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Michel Couvreur

In Michel Couvreur's own words:

Basic Truths about Scotch Whisky

1. Scotch whisky, nor any whisky, has ever had its own AOC or Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée.
2. Whisky and Scotch Whisky are only produced from cereal distillation (not from beet or cane sugar).
3. Minimum of three years aging in oak casks is required of which the capacity of the cask cannot exceed 700 liters.
4. 90% of a whisky's quality comes from the cask, only 10% of the quality comes from the distillation process.
5. The secret of Scotch whisky or the most important factor in the unique quality was aging in Port or Sherry casks that had been subjected to a 25-year "Solera process". During the "Solera process", the cask has continually been refreshed and topped off with new sherry or port.
6. During the 1970's American bourbon casks gradually replaced port and sherry casks in the production of Scotch whisky, a great tragedy, which changed the essence of the product.

Michel Couvreur's Solution

In 1951, Michel Couvreur established himself in Scotland selling Burgundy wines. One of his clients at the time was Navy Captain Ian Tennant of Glenlivet distillery. In 1978, French friends of Michel Couvreur suggested that he tries to obtain a top quality scotch for sale. So began Michel Couvreur's interest and investigation into the Scotch whisky process.



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Eventually, Michel Couvreur settled in Bouze-les-Beaune (close to the Burgundian town of Beaune, France), opened a customs bonded cellar and began selecting his own cask from the Andalusia region of Spain (Sherry country). Today, Michel's scotch starts out in Scotland as bulk "clerach" (a high proof distillate) which is transferred to his cellar in Bouze-les-Beaune and aged in small sherry casks that have been impregnated with 25 years aging of Pedro Ximenez. This process creates his delicious and exotic 12-year-old Malt Whisky. Also, all required dilutions are accomplished with bottled water from Scotland. Total production of all Scotch types is about 50,000 bottles or 4,000 cases yearly.

Michel Couvreur is known as the "last of the Mohicans", a name bestowed by a Danish magazine (Folkebladet, Week-end, July 9th 1988, Herning-Denmark) for his unique and artisanal style of Scotch whisky.