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MCCARTHY'S OREGON SINGLE MALT WHISKEY WINS HIGHEST HONORS AT SPIRITS COMPETITIONS

The brand that started the American Single Malt movement continues to dominate during the Spirits Industry Awards Season

HOOD RIVER, Ore. (May 25, 2017) – [Hood River Distillers](#) announced today that McCarthy's Oregon Single Malt Whiskey, a premium American whiskey aged for three years in Oregon Oak barrels, has earned a 97 rating and was awarded the Chairman's Trophy for being the Best American Single Malt Whiskey at the [2017 Ultimate Beverage Challenge](#). Additionally, McCarthy's won Gold Medals at both the renowned [2017 San Francisco World Spirits Competition](#) and the [2017 Los Angeles International Spirits Competition](#). Together, the three competitions are the most respected and important in the spirits industry.

The San Francisco World Spirits Competition® is the nation's largest and most influential competition of its kind. More than 2,100 entries were judged this year by 43 of the industry's most renowned experts. According to competition director Anthony Dias Blue, "Winning a medal here is very meaningful. We have the industry's most respected experts serving as judges, and every entry is blind-tasted under highly focused conditions. There is no better way to discern quality and identify trends."

The Ultimate Beverage Challenge provides a world class standard of evaluation for spirits. Results of the competition are among the most credible and relevant in the industry. The highest rated products are deemed the best by their competitive performance among their peers in each product category. Brands receiving the Chairman's Trophy are deemed to be extraordinary and receive the ultimate recommendation.

Created in 2007, the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition has set the standard for judging distilled beverages. This year's competition included spirits entries from 146 producers in 31 countries.

"Consumer passion for authentic, heritage-based products has ignited the American whiskey category," said Keri Eliason, Marketing Brand Manager, Hood River Distillers. "While Bourbon and Rye whiskies have centuries of history, it is only in the last two decades that American Single Malts have emerged... led by McCarthy's. While dozens of new brands have surfaced in the last several years, these awards show that the first is still the best."

More than 20 years ago, founder Steve McCarthy ignited the American Single Malt Revolution. In the pioneer tradition that made Oregon famous, McCarthy sourced two-row peat-malted barley from Scotland and found a local brewer to make the wash. Distilled in 60-gallon Holstein pot stills using single-pass distillation and non-chill filtration, McCarthy's is aged in 36-month air-dried Oregon Oak casks for a minimum of three years. McCarthy was the first U.S. distiller to use Oregon Oak in the early 1990s.

About Hood River Distillers

Founded in 1934 and headquartered in Hood River, Ore., Hood River Distillers is the Northwest's largest and oldest importer, distiller, producer, bottler, and marketer of distilled spirits. Pendleton® Whisky, Pendleton® Directors' Reserve Whisky, Pendleton® 1910 Rye Whisky, Pendleton® Midnight Whisky, Trail's End® Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey finished with Oregon Oak, Lucid® Absinthe Supérieure, BIG GIN®, Sinfire® Cinnamon Whisky, Yazi® Ginger Vodka, ULLR® Nordic Libation, HRD® Vodka, the complete line of Monarch® distilled spirits and the Clear Creek Distillery portfolio are just a few of the company's brands distributed across the country. Hood River Distillers is a member of the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility and promotes responsible drinking habits. For more information, visit www.hrdspirits.com.