

Contact: Valerie Plested, 601.366.2775; vapple21@gmail.com

# The Celtic Heritage Society

p.o. box 5166, jackson, mississippi 39296-5166

[www.CelticFestMS.org](http://www.CelticFestMS.org)

---

## Media Release

August 15, 2008– for immediate release

---

Event: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting

Date: 7:30pm, September 5, 2008

Place: The Ethnic Heritage Building at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS

Cost: \$30 advance (online purchase or phone 601.362.3633) / \$40 at the door, space permitting

Website: [www.CelticFestMS.org](http://www.CelticFestMS.org)

### **A BIG BANG FOR THE 10<sup>TH</sup> IRISH WHISKEY AND SCOTCH TASTING BENEFIT**

A unique event that, like its namesake, gets better with age. This year's Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting, a benefit event for CelticFest Mississippi, promises to be one for the books.

The Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting, always occurring the first night of CelticFest, is the only event of its kind in Mississippi. This home-grown Tasting has garnered quite a reputation, with other Celtic festivals in the region imitating it over the last few years.

What is the best balance of sweetness and saltiness in a whiskey? Is it creamy or dry? Why do some scotches smell like peat fires? The Tasting helps participants to learn about this amazing spirit and emphasizes the nuance of *uisce beatha*, or 'the water of life'. "It's almost like a guided tour of Scotland and Ireland, you learn so much about the geography!" says Bob Packer, a former Biloxi resident, current Albuquerque resident and long-time fan of the Tasting.

"Every year, it's completely new, and we've not repeated a whiskey or scotch," says the event's co-coordinator, Nick Lord, manager at Wine & Spirits in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr. And every year, the Tasting grows in terms of attendance and presence. In 2007, the Tasting reached capacity at 120 in attendance.

This year, its 10th anniversary, the Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting is going all out, featuring its notable selection of fine spirits, plus an esteemed Master Distiller from Kingussie, Scotland. EVAN CATTANACH, Ambassador of the Classic Malt collection with 47 years in the Scottish distilling industry, will make the trip to Jackson to lead the Tasting.

"Having Mr. Cattanach here in Jackson, guiding this event, is a tremendous coup. His credentials are impeccable, with 33 years managing four of the six largest distilleries in Scotland," says Perry Launius, co-coordinator of the event. "Our goal is to make the Tasting better than the year before, and we've certainly set a new standard this year." Coordinators are expanding the Tasting to accommodate over 150 participants.

It is important to the organizers of the Tasting and of CelticFest Mississippi that participants drink responsibly. "We always encourage folks to bring a designated driver, and we have gifts and prizes just for 'DD's' at the Tasting," says Launius. "Also, there's plenty going on to entertain, since CelticFest kicks off at the same time with multiple stages running simultaneously."

Fenian's Irish Pub treats the Tasting participants well with catered confections to cleanse the palate. Far from their normal pub fare, the hors d'oeuvres are fit for the subtle tastes coaxed from the spirits.

Contact: Valerie Plested, 601.366.2775; vapple21@gmail.com

“The Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting is a wonderful introduction to Irish whiskey and Scotch, while also appropriate for connoisseurs. Even folks who don’t appreciate whiskey come out of the Tasting with a new favorite,” says CelticFest Co-Director Don Penzien. “The exposition by the speaker is a tremendous component of the event, and this year with Mr. Cattanach leading, it’s promising to be a banner Tasting.”

Some of the whiskeys and scotches featured at the Tasting have limited availability, which particularly has made the event special. For the hard-to-find, Lord and Launius save unique malts, sometimes for months before the Tasting. Selections vary widely in respect to origin and price, but the list always impresses connoisseurs.

This event is sponsored by Wine & Spirits in the Quarter and Fenian’s Irish Pub to raise funds in support of CelticFest Mississippi. The Tasting starts at 7:30 pm on Friday, Sept 5, and participants can enjoy the stage performances of Celtic music and dance for the rest of the evening! Learn more about the main event, CelticFest Mississippi, at [www.CelticFestMS.org](http://www.CelticFestMS.org).

**To reserve tickets:** Tickets are available for purchase online at the CelticFest Mississippi website ([www.CelticFestMS.org](http://www.CelticFestMS.org)), or folks can call Aimee Cole at 601.362.3633. Capacity is limited and the event usually sells out, so advance purchase is highly recommended. For more information, please visit the CelticFest web site: [www.CelticFestMS.org](http://www.CelticFestMS.org)

CelticFest’s sponsors include: Fenian's Irish Pub, Branch Cable, Guinness, Cabot Lodge Millsaps, Wine & Spirits in the Quarter, Cellular South, Somnus Sleep Clinic, The Foundation for Public Broadcasting in MS, Compass Records, Jackson Irish Dancers, and Service Printers. CelticFest Mississippi is funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency. This project is also funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Southern Arts Federation.

###