



# Like Father Like Son

A champion among Scottish whiskies, **The Glenlivet** and its Hong Kong Legacy Series delve into star jockey Douglas Whyte's family racing tradition

**D**ouglas Whyte is perched on the edge of his seat, staring down at the cars racing past below. But then he's comfortable with busy scenes. In fact, Hong Kong horse-racing giant Whyte seems most at ease with the world racing around him – or with racing the world. A legend with a legacy deeply woven into the fabric of one of Hong Kong's most popular sports, it's a wonder he was able to find the time for this meeting in the

midst of the racing season.

The 12-time champion jockey, who has racked up more than 1,400 career wins in Hong Kong, begins the meeting at a full gallop. "I love the spirit of the place – you can do anything," the 41-year-old South African says of the city that's his adopted home. He has spent the past 15 years in Hong Kong, almost the whole of his riding career. But the veteran racer was born to ride: his father was a jockey, and Whyte was first put in the saddle at the tender age of two. However, it was his father's

death when Whyte was only nine that was the trigger for him to become fully committed to taking the reins. At 13 he enrolled in a riding academy with the intention of turning pro.

The life of a jockey is never easy, but Whyte says the academy helped him become the rider and the person he is today. "The expectations, the homesickness, the work ethic – that's what moulds you, what makes you grow up into a man," he says. Whyte says he carries these lessons from the academy onto the circuit, adding that they form part of the legacy he wants to leave behind in the sport. "I believe the harder you work, the more you get," he says, adding that it is his work ethic and determination that he wants to be remembered for. "I'd like all the owners and trainers to remember me for total commitment – for giving everything in every race."

Whyte's integrity helps to keep him a constant favourite among horse-racing fans, and it is this integrity that he hopes to instil

in young racers. "You've only got one name; if you lose your integrity you lose everything," he says. And it is these principles that keep him chasing the finish line. "I still get goose bumps when I think about racing. The day I lose it is the day I stop. I'm only as good as my last winner – Hong Kong humbles you like no other place."

## The Glenlivet Legacy

The history of "the single malt that started it all" dates back more than 200 years, when distillers recognised the glen of the River Livet was abundant with resources to produce fine whisky. Officially licensed in 1824, The Glenlivet was the drink of choice for King George IV, as well as 1950s Hollywood cinematic stars such as Yul Brynner and Robert Taylor. The Glenlivet has gone on to become the world's second-highest selling single malt Scotch whisky and the bestselling single malt whisky in the US. ■



**Clockwise From Left**  
Jockey Douglas Whyte; a serious Whyte; The Glenlivet 18 Years of Age

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