

# Made to Last



**Goldtop Century Limited** recognises a Hardy dram that survived two world wars

The women were working deep underground while miles away, the earth above was bombarded and left in ruins. The men had been called away to the trenches in 1914, and only the women were left behind to mind the brandy and keep the famous industry alive in the commune of Cognac. The womenfolk of the Hardy family did much the same, with Lucie Hardy, one of the third generation of distillers, toiling for three years in the family cellars to produce one of the scarcest cognacs known today.

The rare Cognac of Ladies, as it has been dubbed in the industry, survived the wars and was unveiled at the Hardy Cognac SAS 150th Anniversary on December 6. A gala dinner was held at the Grand Hyatt in Macau to celebrate the 1863 brainchild of Anthony Hardy and the 100-year-old spirit – the Hardy Privilege Vintage Cognac. The vintage cognac was bottled after being stored in oak barrels for more than 70 years, and is now presented in a specially packaged Caryota Prestige set that boasts a distinct Pre-World War I label and comes alongside a Caryota decanter by Lalique. Thirty of the 300 globally available bottles have been reserved for Asia.

The anniversary celebration had over 300 notable guests in attendance, including the Asia-Pacific export manager of Hardy, Hubert Legendre, with the sole distributor of the brand in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China, Goldtop Century Limited's general manager Ricky Tam, along with many television personalities. Guests at the release of the Caryota Prestige also sampled a display of Hardy cognacs from over the years, the Hardy Perfection series 140 years collection.

The Hardy Perfection collection is the world's oldest known unblended cognac composed of 100 per cent French Colombard grapes from the Grande Champagne region. For this collection, Hardy coupled with the French crystal studio Daum to produce a series of decanters that evoke the five elements: Air, Terre, Eau, Flamme and Lumiere.

Goldtop Century Limited has been distributing fine wines and spirits in Hong Kong since 1997. Renowned for recognising unique and boutique brands, it has introduced fresh tastes to the local market. Goldtop Century Limited is the exclusive distributor of Hardy Cognac in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Macau and in duty-free stores. ■



**From Top**  
The Hardy Perfection collection; Caryota Prestige