

BLACK WHISKY COSTS (RE)DISTILLED

The production of BLACK WHISKY was a joint undertaking by Dexter Sinister, publishers (New York, USA) and Stählemühle, distillers (Eigeltingen-Münchhof, Germany). Distillation took place in the summer of 2010, towards the production of a batch-distilled, single Bavarian malt, non-blended whisky, using pure water from the Black Forest, which matured for 12 years in a used bourbon barrel imported from the USA, to be bottled and distributed in 2022.

We operated a simple coöperative economy: anyone wishing to invest a percentage of the production budget received an equivalent percentage of the total number of bottles produced. Any person, group, or institution was free to invest a MINIMUM OF 1 PERCENT and a MAXIMUM OF 20 PERCENT of the production budget detailed below. 10 PERCENT of the total investment/output was reserved each for Dexter Sinister and Stählemühle (20 PERCENT total), therefore 80×1 PERCENT shares were available. We carved up and collected this total budget in advance of distillation. Interested parties proposed their involvement by the end of Spring 2010, by informal e-mail to: INFO@DEXTERSINISTER.ORG.

Each investment was guaranteed by a blind-printed share certificate which served as a trust bond. The agreed percentage was written into this contract, signed by both parties, to be eventually exchanged for the product. Regarding tincture — in terms of tax, as the whisky was legally produced within Germany according to Stählemühle's "right to burn" but will not operate within any regular system of alcohol distribution, it is more accurate to consider it GREY; in terms of color, as the whisky was produced without admixture of either artificial or natural colorants, it is more accurate to consider it BROWN; in terms of economy, as long as the production of the whisky remains indebted to its investors, it is more accurate to consider it RED.

We produced 150 litres (a quantity limited by Stählemühle's distilling license) bottled in 0.35 litre bottles. This means $150 - 30.3$ (production waste) litres / $0.35 = 342$ bottles were produced. The original estimated costs are below.

BARREL

Purchase / transport from USA / care / treatment — EURO 3,000

PROCESS

Single malt (Bavarian, smoked malt, ca. 500 kg) — EURO 1,000

Milling — EURO 100

Yeasts — EURO 100

Enzymes, acid, other chemicals — EURO 100

Water, ~2500 liters + plumbing/transport/storage — EURO 1,000

Energy (water cooling during distilling) — EURO 300

Miscellaneous (cleaning chemicals etc.) — EURO 500

LABOR

Distilling/Caretaking (over 12 years) — EURO 6,000

PACKAGING

Bottles (production / caps / shrinks) — EURO 1,000

Labels — EURO 400

TAX

Distilling tax — EURO 1,500

TOTAL = EURO 15,000 (approx. USD 15,850 / GBP 13,000)*

THEREFORE, 1 PERCENT share (3×0.35 liter bottles) cost EURO 150 (USD 158 / GBP 130).

THEREFORE, 1 bottle = EURO 50 (USD 52 / GBP 43), e.g. an investment of 10 PERCENT cost EURO 1,500; the investor receives 30 bottles after 12 years.

All information correct as of Spring 2022.

Dexter Sinister (www.dextersinister.org / www.servinglibrary.org)

Stählemühle (www.staehlemuehle.de)

* 2010 exchange rates