

Diageo celebrates 20 year anniversary
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NORWALK, Conn., Dec. 15, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- This weekend, Diageo plc, the maker of some of the world's most iconic drinks including Johnnie Walker scotch, Smirnoff vodka, Tanqueray gin and Guinness stout is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

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Created on 17 December 1997, through the merger of Grand Metropolitan plc and Guinness plc, Diageo has become a global leader in beverage alcohol, with its products being sold in 180 countries.

Over the past 20 years Diageo's share price has increased by 340%¹, market capital has grown 440%¹ and earnings per share (pre-exceptional items) are 220%² higher.

The milestone is being celebrated around the world by the company's 30,400 employees. From a time capsule ceremony at Cardhu distillery in Scotland, the home of Johnnie Walker, to employees in Lagos, Nigeria and Sydney, Australia toasting the occasion with a dram of Johnnie Walker Black Label.

In London, to mark the celebration, Diageo's Chief Executive, Ivan Menezes, along with the company's talented team of Scotch Whisky Blenders and fellow members of the senior leadership team opened the market at the London Stock Exchange.

Ivan Menezes, Diageo Chief Executive said:

"I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved over the past 20 years, which is testament to the commitment of our talented employees past and present. Diageo is a young company created from the incredible entrepreneurial legacy of John Walker, Pierre Smirnoff, Charles Tanqueray, Arthur Guinness and many more – and this spirit continues today.

"Our brands are part of celebrations globally every day, as we mark this milestone, it is not only the growth of our brands and business that I will be toasting, but the way we do business. We have made great strides in diversity and inclusion, minimising our environmental impact, our contribution to the communities where we operate and in our aim to reduce the harmful use of alcohol around the world."

Deirdre Mahlan, President, Diageo North America said:

"It's extraordinary to consider how Diageo has grown and matured as a company over the past two decades, both around the globe, and in North America. On this anniversary we raise a glass to the company we have become and our amazing brands, including those we produce right here in the United States and Canada.

"I'm privileged to lead this diverse business and the more than 2500 talented people who work to make this company better, and who bring their best selves to work every day."

¹Percentages calculated comparing number from 17 December 1997 and 4 December 2017.

²EPS calculated using numbers from 30 June 1998 and 30 June 2017.

For further information

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Key milestones

- **Diageo plc** is created through the merger of **Grand Metropolitan** and **Guinness**. The company is listed on the London and New York stock exchanges in December 1997.
- In 2001, Diageo and Pernod Ricard acquired Canadian alcoholic beverages business Seagram's. The acquisition brought **Crown Royal** Canadian whiskey and **Captain Morgan** rum into the Diageo brand family.
- Our **Water of Life** programme was launched in 2007, to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to people across Africa. Since launch, the programme has reached more than 10 million people in 21 countries.
- The Nolet Family and Diageo formed a new 50/50 company in 2008 to sell, market and distribute **Ketel One** vodka.
- In 2008, Diageo launched **DRINKiQ**, an online resource to arm consumers with the tools needed to make informed choices about drinking, including the decision not to drink.
- Diageo launches the **Learning for Life** skills programme in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008. The programme now runs in more than 40 countries, and has reached more than 120,000 people.
- In 2011, Diageo became the first global company to own a majority stake in the fast growing Chinese White Spirits category through the acquisition of a controlling share of **Shui Jing Fang**.
- Diageo also acquired **Mey İcki**, the leading spirits company in Turkey in 2011.
- Diageo acquired **Meta Abo Brewery** in Ethiopia and **Ypióca Cachaça** in Brazil in 2012.
- In 2013, Diageo began its acquisition of **United Spirits Limited** in India.
- Diageo became the first alcohol beverage company to sign up to the **UN Women's Empowerment Principles** in 2013.
- Diageo gained full control of **Don Julio** tequila in 2015.
- Diageo was named as one of the top **25 most diverse and inclusive companies** in the 2016 Thomson Reuters Diversity and Inclusion index.
- In 2017, Diageo acquired the fast growing tequila **Casamigos**.
- Diageo announced its investment to bring back two lost distilleries, **Port Ellen** and **Brora** in October 2017.
- Diageo celebrated training **1 million responsible drinking ambassadors** in 2017 and launched its **Drink Positive** campaign aimed at promoting moderation and tackling misuse.

About Diageo

Diageo is a global leader in beverage alcohol with an outstanding collection of brands including Johnnie Walker, Crown Royal, J&B, Buchanan's and Windsor whiskies, Smirnoff, Cîroc and Ketel One vodkas, Captain Morgan, Baileys, Don Julio, Tanqueray and Guinness.

Diageo is a global company, and our products are sold in more than 180 countries around the world. The

company is listed on both the London Stock Exchange (DGE) and the New York Stock Exchange (DEO). For more information about Diageo, our people, our brands, and performance, visit us at www.diageo.com. Visit Diageo's global responsible drinking resource, www.DRINKiQ.com, for information, initiatives, and ways to share best practice.

Celebrating life, every day, everywhere.

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SOURCE Diageo plc

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