

Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



"Drinking with mixers and gifting are key entry points for dark spirits. Mixed drink recipe suggestions are therefore a crucial means to draw in new users, while promotions around young adults' rites of passage would better enable companies to harness the power of gifting as an introduction to dark spirits."

Alice Baker, Research Analyst

# This report looks at the following areas:

- Recipe suggestions can help companies to harness the power of mixers
- Brands need to make flavour differences more tangible to shoppers
- . Consumer interest in products with ethical aspects suggests untapped opportunities

Standing at £5.8 billion in 2017, the UK dark spirits and liqueurs market grew by 20.8% over 2012-16, driven by inflation and volume sales growth for certain segments over 2014-16. Inflation owing to the weakened pound is expected to drive value sales up by 12.5% to £6.5 billion by 2022, while volume sales are anticipated to dip as shoppers cut back on discretionary spending.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW

**VISIT:** store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

> Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

**EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com

**DID YOU KNOW?** 

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Overview**

What you need to know

Products covered in this report

#### **Executive Summary**

The market

Inflation and success of certain segments drive market growth in 2012-17

Weakened household incomes to erode volume sales over 2017-22

Figure 1: Total value sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, 2012-22

Volume sales declines for whisky, while rum's momentum to stall

Inflation expected for all parts of the market

Health organisations urge measures to reduce alcohol consumption

Companies and brands

The Famous Grouse regains ground as other blended whiskies struggle

Figure 2: Leading brands' shares in the UK retail whisky market, by value, 2016/17\*

Captain Morgan strengthens its hold over the rum market

Further growth in limited editions and premium variants in 2016-17

Glenfiddich innovates with barrel type

Advertising spend falls in 2016

Lifestyle focus in both spirit and liqueur advertising in 2016/17  $\,$ 

Baileys is the most trusted brand, while Jack Daniel's is the most widely seen as cool

The consumer

Half of UK adults drink dark spirits

Figure 3: Usage of dark spirits, by type, July 2017

Ageing UK population to hinder growth

Dark spirits' high price underpins brand loyalty

Figure 4: Dark spirits buying factors, July 2017

Promotions are more compelling than low price for dark spirits buyers

Drinking with mixers is a key entry point for dark spirits

Figure 5: Behaviours relating to dark spirits/liqueurs, July 2017

Gifting provides another key entry point

Ethical aspects have strong appeal

Figure 6: Attitudes towards dark spirits/liqueurs, July 2017

Sugar concerns limit the appeal of liqueurs

What we think

## **Issues and Insights**

Recipe suggestions can help companies to harness the power of mixers

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300 APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 |

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

The facts

The implications

Brands need to make flavour differences more tangible to shoppers

The facts

The implications

Consumer interest in products with ethical aspects suggests untapped opportunities

The facts

The implications

#### The Market - What You Need to Know

Inflation and success of certain segments drive market growth 2012-17

Weakened household incomes to erode volume sales over 2017-22

Volume sales declines for whisky, while rum's momentum to stall

Inflation expected for all parts of the market

Health organisations urge measures to reduce alcohol consumption

#### **Market Size and Forecast**

Inflation and success of certain segments drive market growth 2012-17

Weakened household incomes to erode volume sales over 2017-22

Inflation expected for the market

Figure 7: Total value and volume sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, 2012-22

Figure 8: Total value sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, 2012-22

# **Market Segmentation**

Whisky grows value and volume sales 2012-17

Consumer spending cutbacks to erode whisky volume sales

Dominance of UK-sourced products to curb the effects of inflation

... but Scotch whisky export boost could lead to higher domestic prices

Figure 9: Total value and volume sales of whisky, 2012-22

Figure 10: Total value sales of whisky, 2012-22

Rum to struggle to sustain its earlier momentum

Import-led inflation to continue to push up values

Figure 11: Total value and volume sales of dark/golden/spiced rum, 2012-22

Figure 12: Total value sales of dark/golden/spiced rum, 2012-22

Brandy's 2016 bounce is the exception to otherwise weak performance

Rising prices to drive up brandy values on flat volumes

Figure 13: Total value and volume sales of brandy/Cognac/Armagnac, 2012-22

Figure 14: Total value sales of brandy/Cognac/Armagnac, 2012-22

Liqueurs see mainly flat volume sales 2012-17

Liqueurs to see rising prices on flat volumes

Figure 15: Total value and volume sales of liqueurs, 2012-22

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### Forecast methodology

#### **Channels to Market**

Higher prices in the on-trade allows it to lead on values but not volumes

Inflation rises faster in the on-trade 2017

Figure 16: Value and volume sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, by channel, 2015-17

Retail sales of imported whisky and dark rum continue to rise

Malt whisky's sales growth stalled as reduced supply drives up prices

Figure 17: Value and volume sales of dark spirits and liqueurs in the off-trade, by segment, 2015-17

Figure 18: Value and volume sales of dark spirits and liqueurs in the on-trade, by segment, 2015-17

#### **Market Drivers**

Wider economic and political issues impact the market

Exchange rate-led inflation affects some segments more strongly than others

Other factors push up costs

Income squeeze leaves the category vulnerable to cutbacks and switching

A third of adults have reduced alcohol intake

Health organisations urge measures to reduce alcohol consumption

Ageing population to impede both dark spirits and liqueurs

### Companies and Brands - What You Need to Know

The Famous Grouse regains ground as other blended whiskies struggle

Captain Morgan strengthens its hold over the rum market

Further growth in limited editions and premium variants in 2016-17

Glenfiddich innovates with barrel type

Advertising spend falls in 2016

Lifestyle focus in both spirit and liqueur advertising in 2016/17

Baileys is the most trusted brand, while Jack Daniel's is the most widely seen as cool

#### **Market Share**

The Famous Grouse regains ground as other blended whiskies struggle

Jack Daniel's continues to benefit from the Americana trend

Trend also gives a leg-up to Jim Beam

Figure 19: Leading brands' sales and shares in the UK retail whisky market, 2014/15-2016/17

Figure 20: Leading distributors' sales and shares in the UK retail whisky market, 2014/15-2016/17

## Captain Morgan strengthens its hold in buoyant rum market

NPD helps own-label to grow in rum

Figure 21: Leading brands' sales and shares in the UK retail dark/golden/spiced rum market, 2014/15-2016/17

Figure 22: Leading distributors' sales and shares in the UK retail dark/golden/spiced rum market, 2014/15-2016/17

Own-label loses ground in brandy

Three Barrels piggybacks on the tonic trend

Figure 23: Leading brands' sales and shares in the UK retail brandy/cognac market, 2014/15-2016/17

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

**EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 24: Leading distributors' sales and shares in the UK brandy/cognac market, 2014/15-2016/17

Baileys' focus on its treat aspects helps it to retain its lead

Pimm's loses out from lacklustre summer of 2016

Southern Comfort rebrands under new owners

Figure 25: Leading brands' sales and shares in the UK retail liqueur market, 2014/15-2016/17

Figure 26: Leading distributors' sales and shares in the UK retail liqueur market, 2014/15-2016/17

#### **Launch Activity and Innovation**

Companies continue to release limited editions

Major and niche brands add new editions

Premium launches continue

Jägermeister looks to refresh brand image with new premium variant

Diageo expands the Haig Club range to go more mainstream

Historical references used to give an authentic image

Glenfiddich innovates with barrel type

Whisky launches turn to iceberg water to imply purity

Liqueurs turn to on-trend flavours

Baileys adds a new seasonal variant

# **Advertising and Marketing Activity**

# Advertising spend falls in 2016

Figure 27: Total above-the line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on dark spirits and liqueurs, by leading advertisers (sorted by 2016), 2013-2017

Diageo remains the leading advertiser despite reduced spending

Baileys pushes treat aspects in female-orientated campaign

Baileys highlights different usage occasions to create a versatile image

Captain Morgan continues to urge fans to 'live like the Captain'

Jack Daniel's puts the spotlight on its hometown's residents

Events used to drive home associations with American lifestyles

Famous Grouse focuses on taste and balance

Personalised bottles used to tap into gifting occasions

Explaining the maturation process

Whisky brands praise unconventionality

Haig Club aims to widen whisky's appeal

Glenfiddich celebrates creativity

Chambord puts the focus on fun

Sampling opportunities used to further promote cocktail use

Nielsen Ad Intel coverage

# **Brand Research**

#### Brand map

Figure 28: Attitudes towards and usage of selected brands, August 2017

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### Key brand metrics

Figure 29: Key metrics for selected brands, August 2017

Brand attitudes: Baileys and Jack Daniel's are the brands people are most proud to be associated with

Figure 30: Attitudes, by brand, August 2017

Brand personality: Jack Daniel's is most widely seen as fun and vibrant

Figure 31: Brand personality - Macro image, August 2017

Glenfiddich and Famous Grouse are the most widely seen as traditional

Figure 32: Brand personality - Micro image, August 2017

Brand analysis

Jack Daniel's scores well on the fun factor

Figure 33: User profile of Jack Daniel's, August 2017

Courvoisier enjoys the most sophisticated image

Figure 34: User profile of Courvoisier, August 2017

Baileys is the most trusted brand

Figure 35: User profile of Baileys, August 2017

Glenfiddich has strong associations with tradition and quality

Figure 36: User profile of Glenfiddich, August 2017

The Famous Grouse is widely seen as traditional

Figure 37: User profile of The Famous Grouse, August 2017

Captain Morgan favoured by under-35s

Figure 38: User profile of Captain Morgan, August 2017

## The Consumer - What You Need to Know

Half of UK adults drink dark spirits

Ageing UK population to hinder growth

Dark spirits' high price underpins brand loyalty

Promotions are more compelling than low price for dark spirits buyers

Drinking with mixers is a key entry point for dark spirits

Gifting provides another key entry point

Ethical aspects have strong appeal

Sugar concerns limit the appeal of liqueurs

## **Usage of Dark Spirits and Liqueurs**

Half of adults drink dark spirits

Considerable overlap in whisky drinking habits

Gender bias prevails for dark spirits

Promoting cocktail use could help to tempt women in

Figure 39: Usage of dark spirits, by type, July 2017

Dark spirits are likely to lose out from ageing UK population

Figure 40: Repertoire of dark spirit types drunk, July 2017

Blended whisky is as likely as Bourbon to be drunk with a mixer

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Drinking with mixers is higher among under-25s

Figure 41: Ways of drinking dark spirits, by type, July 2017

Ageing population also has implications for liqueurs

Figure 42: Usage of liqueurs and flavoured dark spirits, by type, July 2017

# **Dark Spirit Buying Factors**

Dark spirits' high price props up brand loyalty

Introductory offers and 'trial-size' bottles offer means to encourage experimentation

Figure 43: Dark spirits buying factors, July 2017

Flavour is neck-and-neck with brand as purchase influencer

Making flavour differences more tangible would help to address consumer uncertainty

Dark spirits' treat status makes promotions more compelling than price

Need to explain the importance of ageing and small batch production

#### **Behaviours Relating to Dark Spirits and Liqueurs**

Drinking with mixers serves as a key entry point for dark spirits

Cocktail recipes in on-trade and retail offer a platform for promoting mixability

One in three people have moved on from the drinks of their youth

Figure 44: Behaviours relating to dark spirits/liqueurs, July 2017

Gifting is another key entry point into dark spirits

Companies must pitch their marketing both to drinkers and non-drinkers

Important to ensure that drinkers let others know of their preferences

A third of drinkers/buyers research dark spirits before buying

## **Attitudes towards Dark Spirits and Liqueurs**

Ethical aspects have strong appeal

Figure 45: Attitudes towards dark spirits/liqueurs, July 2017

Consumers' researching tendencies boost socially responsible companies

Charity tie-ups rare within dark spirits

On-pack calorie labelling per serving could appeal to health-conscious drinkers

# **Qualities Associated with Selected Types of Liqueurs**

On-pack recipe suggestions and cross-promotion could help liqueurs to forge a more versatile image

Figure 46: Qualities associated with selected types of liqueurs, July 2017

Cream-based liqueurs are the most widely seen as a treat

Consumer health concerns around sugar limit the appeal of certain types

Scope to explore use of sugar alternatives

Bitters could be promoted as a less sweet form of fruit liqueur

Opportunities for expansion in vegetable-based products

## Appendix - Data Sources, Abbreviations and Supporting Information

Abbreviations

Consumer research methodology

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £1995.00 | \$2583.33 | €2370.86

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

# **Appendix - Market Size and Forecast**

Figure 47: Forecast of UK sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, by value, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 48: Forecast of UK sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 49: Forecast of UK sales of whisky, by value, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 50: Forecast of UK sales of whisky, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 51: Forecast of UK sales of dark/golden/spiced rum, by value, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 52: Forecast of UK sales of dark/golden/spiced rum, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 53: Forecast of UK sales of brandy/Cognac/Armagnac, by value, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 54: Forecast of UK sales of brandy/Cognac/Armagnac, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 55: Forecast of UK sales of liqueurs, by value, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 56: Forecast of UK sales of liqueurs, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2017-22

Figure 57: Total volume sales of dark spirits and liqueurs, 2012-22

Figure 58: Total volume sales of whisky, 2012-22

Figure 59: Total volume sales of dark/golden/spiced rum, 2012-22

Figure 60: Total volume sales of brandy/Cognac/Armagnac, 2012-22

Figure 61: Total volume sales of liqueurs, 2012-22

#### Forecast methodology

## **Appendix - Advertising and Marketing Activity**

Figure 62: Above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising on dark spirits and liqueurs, by parent company and brand (sorted by top four advertisers in 2016), 2013-17

# Appendix - Usage of Dark Spirits and Liqueurs

Figure 63: Ways of drinking liqueurs/flavoured dark spirits, by type, July 2017