

# World's best? I'll drink to that!

## KATE CRAWFORD

STUART Gilbert's rum rebellion has paid off – his company has been named the best distiller of rum in the world.

It was a double shot for the Cammeray businessman.

His rum was also named the best rum in the world.

It is the first time in the 40-year history of the International Wine and Spirits Competition that an Australian company has won the coveted titled of Worldwide Distiller of The Year.

"It is the highest accolade ever presented to a rum. It's the holy grail of rum," Gilbert said.

Gilbert attended the banquet dinner at the Guild Hall in London late last year to accept the two top awards, as well as three individual gold medals for his Holey Dollar Rum.

"It is an unprecedented record for any company or brand to take the highest possible awards for all their products," he said.

Gilbert, a master distiller, said he established Holey Dollar last year to coincide with the 200th

anniversary of the 1808 Rum Rebellion in Australia.

Gilbert said he set out to develop a rum that would do justice to the legacy of the first Australian settlers and to make the best tasting rum in Australia.

Gilbert said the idea was conceived over lunch with Tony Stubley, a director of Southtrade International.

"We agreed that there was a serious lack of great quality rum available in Australia," Gilbert said.

The rum is distilled in Fiji and is predominantly a "pot still" blend.

"Our rum is aged longer. We are more concerned with the taste and quality of our rum than more known brands," Gilbert said.

Gilbert entered three Holey Dollar blends in the competition – premium, overproof and cask strength. All were awarded gold medals and the overproof rum handed the trophy for Best Rum.

"We were over the moon – beating 84 of the best rums in the world," he said.



Stuart Gilbert with the best rum in the world.