

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Le Clos sells most expensive whisky ever recorded for \$1.2M

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The Macallan holds many records for expensive whisky sales. Image credit: Le Clos

By STAFF REPORTS

Dubai-based retailer Le Clos just set a world record for whisky sales by selling two bottles of The Macallan for \$1.2 million.

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The sale makes the bottle the most expensive whisky purchase to be recorded. The two bottles contain whisky distilled in 1926 and were acquired by a private collector

"Le Clos has built a long-standing relationship with both The Macallan and Dubai Airports and we are thrilled to be able to celebrate our 10-year anniversary with another world-record sale," said Iain Delaney, managing director of Le Clos, in a statement. "This success is testament to the commitment of our partners who have supported the vision of Le Clos in becoming one of the world's leading luxury retailers, not just in Dubai Airport but globally.

"The desire to deliver world-class retailing excellence is engrained in our DNA as is our reputation for exploring the world to source unique fine wines and luxury spirits that are both accessible as they are different and bring them to the one of the world's great cross roads," he said.

"It's these attributes: the passion and ability to source some of the rarest bottles in the world, coupled with our world-class retailing credentials, that have created the trust in the global market for private retail sales of this magnitude to take place."

World record

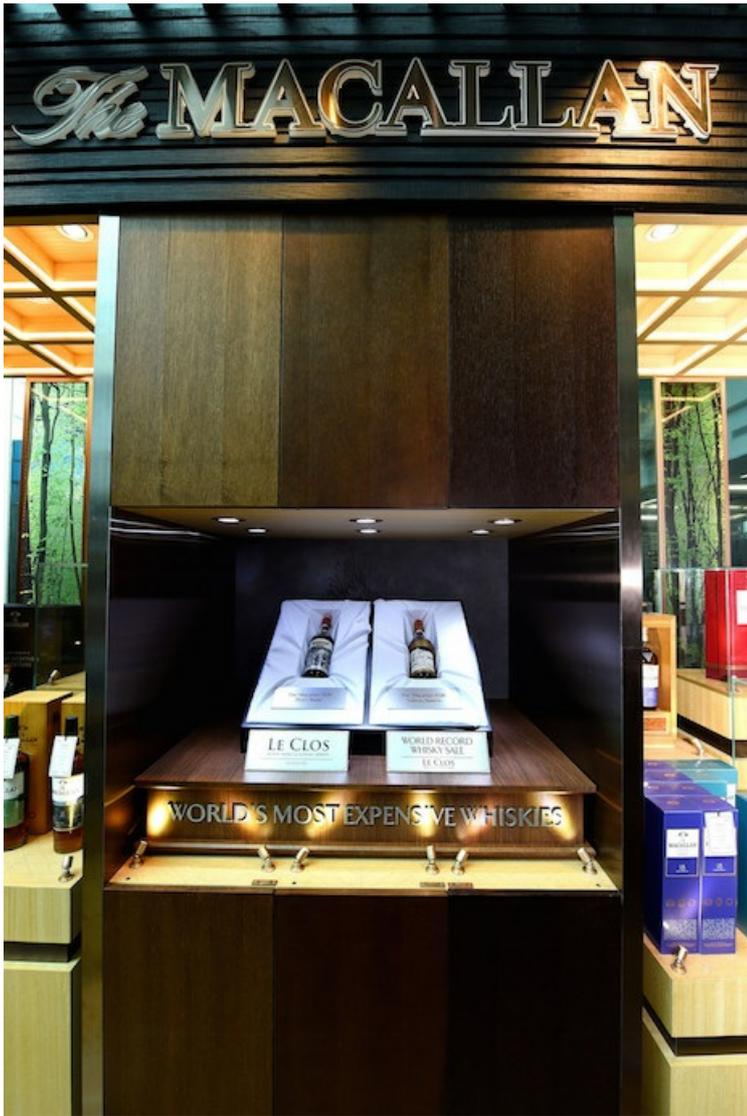
Le Clos is a Dubai-based retailer located in the Dubai Airport. The retailer has made a name for itself for high-profile sales of ultra-expensive whiskies.

The two bottles of The Macallan sold at Le Clos were originally sold for 20,000 pounds, or nearly \$28,000 at current exchange rates, while the lot was last sold in an auction at Christie's for \$75,000.

Each of the two bottles is unique. When the original batch was created, 12 bottles were given to British artist Peter Blake, known for creating album covers for The Beatles, and 12 were given to Italian artist Valerio Adami.

The artists each created individual labels for the bottles, making them even more valuable. The collector who purchased the new bottles bought one with a label from Mr. Blake and one with a label from Mr. Adami.

Each bottle was sold for \$600,000 for the buyer's personal collection.



The two bottles of The Macallan 1926. Image credit: Le Clos

The Macallan already holds the distinction for the most expensive whisky ever sold at auction when a bottle of The Macallan M Imperiale was sold at Sotheby's in Hong Kong for \$628,000.

In December 2016, an unnamed consumer purchased The Macallan Fine and Rare whisky collection for \$500,000 at Le Clos' store in the Dubai Airport. Three months later, the same store saw the sale of 29 bottles of The Macallan 18-Year-Old Vertical, featuring annual whiskies from 1958 to 1986 ([see story](#)).

"These represent some of the most exclusive bottles ever produced, making this an iconic sale that will be remembered worldwide for years to come," said Geoff Kirk, director of prestige at The Macallan, in a statement. "It is incredibly rare for The Macallan 1926 to be made available for purchase, and the sale offers whisky connoisseurs the chance to secure historic bottles emblematic of 20th century pop culture.

"The Macallan is renowned for its outstanding quality, and this sale demonstrates the brand standing as a leading figure in the whisky industry worldwide," he said.