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**JOHN WATLING'S RUM
'SPIRIT OF THE BAHAMAS'**

Nassau, N.P., Bahamas – John Watling's Distillery – JOHN WATLING'S rum, the “Spirit of The Bahamas”, opened its doors on the 12th of April 2013 for complimentary tours at its home, the Buena Vista Estate, in Downtown Nassau. The historic Estate, founded in 1789 and overlooking the harbour, is the site where Bahamians hand-craft JOHN WATLING'S small-batch Pale, Amber and Buena Vista rums. At the Estate, John Watling's features a production and museum-like tour, shopping and signature Bahamian cocktails at its Red Turtle Tavern. Within walking distance from the cruise ship port, John Watling's Distillery is located on Delancy Street and is open daily from 10am-6pm.

John Watling's Distillery has partnered with the Antiquities, Monument and Museum Corporation (AMMC), the National Insurance Board (NIB), N&M Architects and Coastline Construction to refurbish the Buena Vista Estate to its original splendour. The restoration which also includes the construction of a 10,000 square foot purpose-built barrel ageing and production facility as its storehouse lasted more than a year.

“It is very important to us that John Watling's Distillery and the Buena Vista Estate celebrate the rich history and heritage of The Bahamas. We have made sure that everything from our distillery to our rums is of the highest quality,” said Jose B. Portuondo, Founding Partner. “John Watling's Distillery is a must-see stop in Nassau – In fact, here visitors will find a multisensory experience which features history, architecture, natural beauty, sweeping views of the harbour and the chance to take home a bottle of JOHN WATLING'S rum”.

The Buena Vista Estate:

Set on more than two acres of lush tropical gardens with centenary black olive trees, The Buena Vista Estate has been part of the history of Nassau, New Providence, and The Bahamas since 1789. Construction started on the house the same year as the United States Constitution was



enacted; George Washington was elected President of the United States, and the start of the French Revolution.

The legendary Buena Vista house hosted many famous patrons in the past, including everyone from Robert Mitchum and Bobby Kennedy to Ed Sullivan and Joan Crawford. The Estate made its Hollywood debut when it was featured in the James Bond film *Casino Royale* starring Daniel Craig.

The newly renovated Buena Vista Estate now serves as the visitor experience for John Watling's Distillery, featuring antique furnishings, interactive exhibits, a retail store, and a tavern. It is also available for both corporate and private functions.

The Distillery Tour:

The Distillery is open to visitors daily and features complimentary tours showcasing the history and heritage of The Bahamas. The tour begins in the entrance lobby of the Buena Vista house and includes antiques and prints dating back more than 300 years. Photographic exhibits and displays have been provided by the descendants of the Buena Vista's long list of residents, which includes Royal Governors, Chief Justices and Knights of the British Empire.

The tour then continues to the storehouse where guests get up close and see how JOHN WATLING's rums are bottled the old-fashioned way by local hands. It offers a unique multisensory experience where guests see more than 225 ageing white oak barrels that fill the air with the 'Angel's Share', which is the portion lost to evaporation during the many years the rum rests in the barrel.

Just outside, guests can marvel at the newly discovered 200-year-old water well cut out of solid limestone, measuring 7.4 feet in diameter and 74 feet deep. The well is situated in the area between the Buena Vista home and the Distillery, and it is assumed that it was carved out by slaves sometime from the inception of the Buena Vista in 1789 to the enactment of the British Slavery Abolition Act of 1833.

JOHN WATLING'S rums:

More than 175 years of rum-making experience went into creating JOHN WATLING'S rum, as five founding members; Pepin and Leon Argamasilla, Jose and Mario Portuondo and Guillermo Garcia-Lay, of John Watling's Distillery are also sixth generation members of a rum-producing family with more than a half century tie to The Bahamas.



JOHN WATLING'S rum is the new super-premium rum of The Bahamas. It is available as a two-year-old Pale, three-year-old Amber and a five-year-old Buena Vista named after the Estate. The latter was recently awarded a Gold Medal at "The Fifty Best" awards competition in New York City.

JOHN WATLING'S rums are fermented and distilled from hand-cut, freshly pressed sugar cane molasses and all products made at John Watling's Distillery are handcrafted and hand-packaged by Bahamian hands. At John Watling's we use local materials and employ traditional English rum-making methods to produce the "Spirit of The Bahamas". The Distillery uses the least amount of mechanization possible without compromising on quality, and even the bottles are adorned with a section of Sisal Plait that is woven by hand in the Bahamian islands of South Andros and Cat Island.

JOHN WATLING'S rums, which began selling this March, are currently only available on New Providence and the Family Islands, and have been thoroughly embraced by Bahamians and tourists alike.

What's in a Name:

John Watling was known as the "pious pirate" who sailed the Bahamian seas. He was an English buccaneer from the 17th century who settled on San Salvador Island and named it after himself. He sailed with famous buccaneers such as William Dampier, Woodes Rogers and Bartholomew Sharpe. In 1925 when it was finally determined this was also the island of Columbus' landing, the name was changed back to San Salvador Island.

John Watling's Distillery is located on Delancy Street, within walking distance from the cruise ship port in Downtown Nassau and is easily accessible to both locals and visitors. To plan a visit, tourists should go to www.johnwatlings.com or call (242) 322-2811, or just show up. Tours are free, self-guided or by tour guide. Operating hours are 10am to 6pm seven days a week. For more information, photos, and news about John Watling's Distillery, please "Like" the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/johnwatlings or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @JohnWatlings.

About John Watling's Distillery:

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