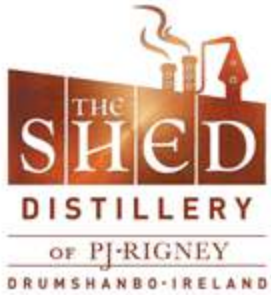# A Spirited Journey:

The Shed Distillery Optimises Operations With Brutos Software

Brutos™

Vision33

About

Three years and one day: That's how long whiskey must age in a wooden cask to be Irish whiskey.

Distilling is an art, and Patrick and Denise Rigney, founders of The Shed Distillery, are passionate about their craft.

The Shed's story began ten years ago with Patrick's dream of building a distillery in the heart of rural Ireland. His quest for a wild, unmanicured location lush with nature and steeped in history led him to the village of Drumshanbo, County Leitrim, on the shores of Lough Allen.

*"When we first went to see the space, we were met by the community and the community elders",
Denise says. "They were hands-on people willing to do everything we needed to get licenses and get us established".*

The Shed's five state-of-the-art copper pot stills and two copper column stills were custom-made in Germany and brought to Drumshanbo.

In 2014, Patrick, Denise, and their dedicated team of distillers laid down the first whiskey in Connacht province in over 101 years. The rest is history.

Today, The Shed offers four expressions of Irish whiskey, three expressions of Irish gin, and a pure Irish vodka, available in 90 countries and via the distillery's online shop. Their Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin is the number one gifted gin and the number one SKU in Dublin airport's duty-free shop.

The Shed is the home of its brand; everything it produces is made and bottled onsite.

The distillery includes a visitor experience that now draws over 50,000 paying tourists annually to the village of 800 people.

"The visitor experience is lovely", Denise says. "We call it going on a mini vacation because it's an escape. The whole brand is about the journey around the world Patrick and I have made, and the botanicals and artifacts we picked up".

Building a Technology Stack

The Shed started with a small business accounting application, but the entry-level software couldn't handle the distillery's stock and batch requirements.

The Shed partnered with Vision33 to implement SAP Business One, one of the world's leading enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions, and O'Spirits, an add-on solution that brings distillery-specific functionality to SAP Business One.

"

We made the move to SAP Business One before we really needed to, which was the time to do it", Denise says.

Reconciling Data Discrepancies

While SAP Business One's traditional ERP functionality proved to be a robust backbone for The Shed's operations, there were challenges with O'Spirits's distillery-specific features.

"The data became messy", Denise explains. "O'Spirits sometimes didn't talk to SAP Business One properly. For example, O'Spirits would say there were 3,540 casks, but SAP Business One would say, 'You have 4,200'. It was difficult to reconcile, and we sometimes couldn't tell what transaction was causing the problems. It was also putting casks into the wrong warehouse".

When a recasking was done, O'Spirits would lose the batch number and the aging history, causing compliance issues and increasing waste. A spreadsheet became the workaround for tracking the batch and aging information.

Inventory management was also challenging. Inaccurate data led to valuation issues and inaccurate reports.

"We have to justify the costs for everything", Denise says. "If your stock number is incorrect but the value is correct, your item cost is wrong. You can't justify the item cost row because the system threw in an extra few tasks. It doesn't work".

Vision33, The Shed's trusted technology partner, had a solution.

Implementing Game-Changing Distillery Management Software

Brutos by Vision33 is cloud-based, all-in-one beverage management software purpose-built for distillers and brewers. Brutos unites data by combining front- and back-end office functions to boost efficiency and provide unparalleled visibility into operations.

"When Vision33 told us about Brutos, I could see we needed to do it", Denise says. "We were happy to be an early adopter because I could see the advantages".

Because Brutos harnesses the power of SAP Business One, The Shed could continue using the core ERP functionality that was working well for the distillery. This kept operations running smoothly while helping The Shed define which distillery-specific functionality it needed from Brutos.

Gaining Traceability, Efficiency, and Trusted Data

Traceability is critical for The Shed because Irish whiskey has specific rules. It can be moved from cask to cask, but the distiller must manage the batches and know how long the liquid is maturing in the casks.

And because of the three-years-and-a-day rule, maturation stops if the whiskey is moved to a stainless steel container; only when the whiskey is returned to its wooden cask can the aging process resume.

"Brutos follows and provides a history of where a batch was, if it was split between two casks, wherever it went, however it was done", Denise says. "There's much more traceability. And when you combine two batches, Brutos will take the youngest batch as the new age for that batch, because that's the law. If I combine a five-year-old whiskey with a four-year-old whiskey, the new whiskey is four years old".

Brutos has significantly improved The Shed's distillery floor operations. The distillery manager has all the information he needs at his fingertips—including the quantity and type of liquid in a particular cask, how long it's been there, and if it's been in other casks.

As Denise explains, that makes it much easier when deciding which casks to taste to see if they're ready.

With Brutos, The Shed's processing and production—from mashing to packaging—are about 25% faster. Gone are the days when production staff needed two working days to physically count stacked casks because of report discrepancies.

And Denise no longer worries about reconciling discrepancies between two systems because Brutos is built on SAP Business One.

"Brutos is making life easier because it's reducing the number of steps you have to do to get the results", she says. "It makes the data correct, and that's primary. If you can't trust your data, you're in trouble. And I have 100% trust in our data now".

Sláinte

The Shed continues to "make the ordinary extraordinary" with traditional methods and recipes, including wild grains, Irish flora, and exotic botanicals. In addition to guided tours and tastings, the distillery's experiences include browsing a specialty gift shop and sipping signature serves and bespoke cocktails at the Honey Badger Bar.

Future plans include implementing Produmex Scan and integrating SAP Business One with The Shed's eCommerce and retail systems using Saltbox, Vision33's exclusive cloud-based integration platform.

Now that The Shed has the right technology stack with powerful batch management and traceability, Denise cites the importance of the right partner.

"What makes putting a system like Brutos in place easy is the people who are behind it, who are there to make it work", she concludes. "Our Vision33 consultant is amazing and incredibly clear in how he communicates. That's what makes it easy".

Vision33 transforms business processes and results for customers by delivering value through the promise of technology and its benefits for growing businesses. For over 30 years, Vision33 has helped companies integrate and automate their business processes and applications to better serve their customers, employees, and stakeholders. The technologies may have changed drastically in 30 years, but Vision33's mission has never wavered.

With over 1,000 customers worldwide, Vision33 helps manufacturers, distributors, service firms, and SaaS businesses outperform their competition and lead their industries with successful technology investments.

With nearly 500 employees, Vision33 offers product expertise, business experience, and innovative technology leadership. Whether a global company with 100 subsidiaries or a small business, Vision33 works alongside every customer to meet their goals.

Vision33 also has formal partnerships to resell, implement, and support leading ERP applications, is a leader in cloud deployment, and has developed exclusive products, including Saltbox and iDocuments.

For more information about Vision33, visit vision33.co.uk

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