

Company In-Depth

16 May 2007 | 17 pages

United Spirits (UNSP.BO)

Buy: Whyte & Mackay Acquisition - Positive Surprises Galore

 Rating change
 Target price change
 Estimate change

- Positive surprises galore** — UNSP's Whyte & Mackay acquisition is full of positive surprises 1) deal value of US\$1.2m lower than our estimate of US\$1.4bn 2) inventory valuation at US\$800m higher than estimates 3) EPS accretive from year-1 and 4) put options on inventory, securing future profits.
- Good strategic fit at reasonable valuations** — W&M provides access to secure long-term scotch inventory and fits UNSP's aspiration to cater to high-end segments in India, China and Russia. More important, it has been acquired at reasonable valuations at 11.8x FY08E EV/EBITDA, at a significant discount to peer group average and cheaper than recent deals in the liquor space.
- Over 60% of W&M's future profits underwritten** — W&M has put options for the next 4-5 years on large scotch players for selling its bulk scotch. This will underwrite over 60% of W&M budgeted profits over next 4-5 years and de-risks cash flow profile. Management expects W&M to be debt free over next 4 years.
- Bullish outlook on scotch** — UNSP management has a bullish outlook on scotch prices. Rising emerging market demand (22% yoy) and resurgence in US markets is fuelling 10% global scotch volume growth and has resulted in 75%-120% increase in bulk scotch prices over the last few months.
- Incorporating W&M, raising target price** — We are incorporating Whyte & Mackay into our EPS estimates and raise FY08E-FY10E EPS estimates by 13.6%-37%. We raise our target price to Rs1250, not as aggressive as our EPS upgrades, as we now discount for dilution on potential sale of treasury stock.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Buy/Low Risk | 1L |
| Price (16 May 07) | Rs895.20 |
| Target price | Rs1,250.00 |
| | <i>from Rs1,114.00</i> |
| Expected share price return | 39.6% |
| Expected dividend yield | 0.0% |
| Expected total return | 39.7% |
| Market Cap | Rs84,580M |
| | US\$2,086M |

Price Performance (RIC: UNSP.BO, BB: UNSP IN)



See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification and important disclosures.

Statistical Abstract

| Year to | Net Profit | Diluted EPS | EPS growth | P/E | P/B | ROE | Yield |
|---------|------------|-------------|------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| 31 Mar | (RsM) | (Rs) | (%) | (x) | (x) | (%) | (%) |
| 2006A | 446 | 7.38 | 3.5 | 121.3 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| 2007A | 2,418 | 25.59 | 246.9 | 35.0 | 6.4 | 22.4 | 0.0 |
| 2008E | 3,921 | 41.49 | 62.1 | 21.6 | 2.9 | 18.6 | 0.0 |
| 2009E | 5,526 | 58.48 | 40.9 | 15.3 | 2.5 | 17.6 | 0.0 |
| 2010E | 6,728 | 71.19 | 21.7 | 12.6 | 2.1 | 18.4 | 0.1 |

Source: Powered by dataCentral

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| Fiscal year end 31-Mar | 2006 | 2007 | 2008E | 2009E | 2010E |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Valuation Ratios | | | | | |
| P/E adjusted (x) | 121.3 | 35.0 | 21.6 | 15.3 | 12.6 |
| EV/EBITDA adjusted (x) | 47.5 | 18.6 | 14.2 | 11.2 | 9.6 |
| P/BV (x) | 6.4 | 6.4 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| Dividend yield (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Per Share Data (Rs) | | | | | |
| EPS adjusted | 7.38 | 25.59 | 41.49 | 58.48 | 71.19 |
| EPS reported | 21.00 | 53.53 | 38.17 | 58.06 | 70.65 |
| BVPS | 139.20 | 139.92 | 307.22 | 357.02 | 416.83 |
| DPS | 0.29 | 0.31 | 0.37 | 0.42 | 0.46 |
| Profit & Loss (RsM) | | | | | |
| Net sales | 21,485 | 28,674 | 39,219 | 53,985 | 59,833 |
| Operating expenses | -19,988 | -24,073 | -32,203 | -43,847 | -48,386 |
| EBIT | 1,497 | 4,601 | 7,016 | 10,138 | 11,447 |
| Net interest expense | -1,524 | -1,418 | -1,920 | -2,760 | -2,360 |
| Non-operating/exceptionals | 596 | 426 | 506 | 516 | 524 |
| Pre-tax profit | 569 | 3,609 | 5,602 | 7,895 | 9,611 |
| Tax | -123 | -1,191 | -1,680 | -2,368 | -2,883 |
| Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div. | 824 | 2,641 | -314 | -39 | -52 |
| Reported net income | 1,270 | 5,059 | 3,607 | 5,487 | 6,676 |
| Adjusted earnings | 446 | 2,418 | 3,921 | 5,526 | 6,728 |
| Adjusted EBITDA | 1,923 | 5,064 | 7,771 | 11,319 | 12,678 |
| Growth Rates (%) | | | | | |
| Sales | 85.9 | 33.5 | 36.8 | 37.7 | 10.8 |
| EBIT adjusted | 215.7 | 207.4 | 52.5 | 44.5 | 12.9 |
| EBITDA adjusted | 204.9 | 163.4 | 53.5 | 45.7 | 12.0 |
| EPS adjusted | 3.5 | 246.9 | 62.1 | 40.9 | 21.7 |
| Cash Flow (RsM) | | | | | |
| Operating cash flow | 2,842 | 7,878 | 5,475 | 7,623 | -1,277 |
| Depreciation/amortization | 426 | 462 | 755 | 1,181 | 1,231 |
| Net working capital | 1,975 | 2,346 | 1,093 | 926 | -9,225 |
| Investing cash flow | 320 | -746 | -2,726 | -407 | -415 |
| Capital expenditure | -999 | -230 | -2,716 | -407 | -415 |
| Acquisitions/disposals | 1,319 | -515 | -10 | 0 | 0 |
| Financing cash flow | 14,788 | 4,146 | 45,285 | -1,354 | -1,398 |
| Borrowings | 9,692 | -2,542 | 30,610 | -4,500 | -5,000 |
| Dividends paid | -224 | -387 | -568 | -780 | -1,025 |
| Change in cash | 17,950 | 11,278 | 48,034 | 5,862 | -3,090 |
| Balance Sheet (RsM) | | | | | |
| Total assets | 32,596 | 37,060 | 91,477 | 93,187 | 95,491 |
| Cash & cash equivalent | 3,611 | 5,167 | 212 | 234 | 422 |
| Accounts receivable | 3,220 | 4,161 | 7,530 | 8,198 | 8,946 |
| Net fixed assets | 4,864 | 4,936 | 13,000 | 12,942 | 12,860 |
| Total liabilities | 22,893 | 22,553 | 61,170 | 58,173 | 54,825 |
| Accounts payable | 6,311 | 8,406 | 15,001 | 16,336 | 17,807 |
| Total Debt | 15,431 | 12,890 | 43,500 | 39,000 | 34,000 |
| Shareholders' funds | 9,703 | 14,507 | 30,317 | 35,024 | 40,676 |
| Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%) | | | | | |
| EBITDA margin adjusted | 8.9 | 17.7 | 19.8 | 21.0 | 21.2 |
| ROE adjusted | 7.9 | 22.4 | 18.6 | 17.6 | 18.4 |
| ROIC adjusted | 11.1 | 16.8 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 11.6 |
| Net debt to equity | 121.8 | 53.2 | 142.8 | 110.7 | 82.5 |
| Total debt to capital | 61.4 | 47.0 | 58.9 | 52.7 | 45.5 |

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Whyte & Mackay Deal Full of Positive Surprises

We are enthused at the final out come of the Whyte & Mackay deal. United Spirits has been able to acquire Whyte & Mackay at 11.8x FY08E EV/EBITDA, cheaper than its own valuations and at almost a 20% discount to the global peer group average. At an enterprise value of US\$1.18bn and estimated FY08E EBITDA of US\$100m, deal valuations are almost 50% lower than our expectations. The enterprise value also accounts for pension liabilities of about US\$50m (Rs2050m) that Whyte & Mackay has on its books. We estimate that the deal will be 15% accretive to UNSP's EPS from year-1 (pre-exceptional profits), against our earlier estimates of an 18% dilution. On top of that, management has stated that the scotch inventory is valued at US\$700- US\$800m. However, the biggest positive surprise from the deal is the put options for its inventory that Whyte & Mackay has over its buyers – large global scotch players. According to the UNSP management, part of Whyte & Mackay's scotch inventories are underwritten for the next 4-5 years, which will secure over 60% of projected profits of Whyte & Mackay. Whyte & Mackay is expected to make EBITDA profits of US\$100m (Rs4.1bn) in the current year (year ending September 2007, consolidated with UNSP's FY08E accounts). Management has guided at growing the EBITDA profits by 20% per annum over the next 5-years.

Figure 1. Global Liquor Valuation Summary

| Company | Ticker | Price | Country | Market Cap (US\$m) | P/E (x) | | EV/EBITDA (x) | | Div. Yld. (%) | RoE (%) | | RoCE (%) | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------|------|
| | | | | | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | | 2007 | 2007 | 2007 | 2007 |
| Luzhou Laojiao (1M) | 000568.SZ | 39.1 | China | 4,435.5 | 62.3 | 36.3 | 37.3 | 24.4 | 0.9% | 23.6% | 32.6% | | |
| Wuliangye Yibin (2M) | 000858.SZ | 24.2 | China | 12,929.1 | 58.5 | 41.1 | 31.8 | 25.9 | 0.2% | 17.5% | 27.8% | | |
| Kweichow Moutai (1M) | 600519.SS | 90.9 | China | 11,494.9 | 43.5 | 28.0 | 24.3 | 17.6 | 0.8% | 30.1% | 118.2% | | |
| Shanxi Fenjiu (3H) | 600809.SS | 34.5 | China | 2,085.3 | 40.4 | 28.0 | 20.0 | 16.3 | 1.3% | 30.7% | 52.1% | | |
| C&C Group Plc (2M) | CCR.I | 12.6 | Ireland | 5,567.4 | 23.2 | 19.4 | 19.3 | 16.3 | 2.1% | 69.0% | 27.0% | | |
| Davide Campari-Milano SpA (1L) | CPR.MI | 7.7 | Italy | 3,049.0 | 17.4 | 15.9 | 11.7 | 10.5 | 1.3% | 15.2% | 11.6% | | |
| Diageo PLC (2L) | DGE.L | 10.7 | UK | 56,328.8 | 19.8 | 17.9 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 3.0% | 36.7% | 17.4% | | |
| Pernod-Ricard SA (1L) | PERP.PA | 156.9 | France | 23,277.8 | 20.4 | 17.5 | 16.1 | 14.4 | 1.6% | 13.2% | 6.9% | | |
| Constellation Brands Inc (2H) | STZ.N | 23.8 | USA | 5,603.8 | 14.2 | 17.5 | 7.9 | 9.2 | 0.0% | 12.7% | 8.5% | | |
| Thai Beverage (3L) | TBEV.SI | 0.3 | Thailand | 4,471.2 | 12.2 | 11.5 | 7.0 | 6.2 | 4.1% | 20.5% | 17.2% | | |
| United Spirits (1L) | UNSP.BO | 837.6 | India | 2,086.3 | 32.7 | 20.2 | 18.2 | 11.9 | 0.0% | 22.4% | 20.2% | | |
| Average | | | | | 31.3 | 23.0 | 18.8 | 15.1 | 1.4% | 26.5% | 30.9% | | |

Source: Citigroup Investment Research

Structure of the Deal

United Spirits gets 100% control of Whyte & Mackay at an enterprise value of US\$1.18bn. The deal will be funded entirely through debt, though we expect UNSP to sell its treasury stock soon to part repay some of the debt. Whyte & Mackay will have total debt of about US\$650m, which won't have recourse to United Spirits. The US\$650m also includes earlier debt of about US\$350m on the books of Whyte & Mackay that has been refinanced. Whyte & Mackay will not have debt repayment obligation on US\$350m portion for 3 years, after which the debt is payable over 5 years. For the remaining US\$300m, the payback structure is back-ended as well. The debt in Whyte & Mackay has been raised against its scotch inventories and brands. Similarly, United Spirits will raise US\$620m in its books against its treasury stock and stock of UNSP held by its

parent UB Holdings. There will be no repayment obligation for the first 2.5 years, after which the debt will need to be retired over 4.5 years. We, however, believe that UNSP will be able to retire its debt significantly earlier. We expect it to sell its treasury stock sometime soon, and it may potentially sell a minority stake in Whyte & Mackay (possibly through a listing on the LSE), that can result in accelerated debt repayment.

Raising Estimates, Target Price

We are incorporating Whyte & Mackay into our earnings estimates for United Spirits. We are raising our EPS estimates for FY08E-FY10E by 13.6%-37%, building in the positive impact of Whyte & Mackay. Our EPS estimates are post minority interest and associate share, but are before one-time exceptional items. We are raising our target price to Rs1250 from Rs1140 earlier. Our increase in target price does not reflect the aggressive increase in our EPS estimates. This is so because our 25x FY08E target P/E is no longer adjusted for the 18% treasury stock on UNSP's books, given that we are assuming a sale of treasury and subsequent dilution into our FY08E EPS. Our target price is therefore based on 25x mid-FY09E P/E fully diluted for the treasury stock. We also roll forward our target P/E multiple from FY08E to mid-FY09E, given that we are already nearing mid-FY08 and the market is likely to increasingly start discounting FY09E into valuations.

Figure 2. Earnings Revision Summary

| | Net Profit (Rsm) | | | EPS (Rs) | | | DPS (Rs) | | |
|--------|------------------|---------|--------|----------|------|--------|----------|-----|--------|
| | Old | New | % Chg. | Old | New | % Chg. | Old | New | % Chg. |
| FY08E | 3,451.5 | 3,921.1 | 13.6 | 36.5 | 41.5 | 13.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| FY09E | 4,160.3 | 5,526.2 | 32.8 | 44.0 | 58.5 | 32.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| FY010E | 4911.4 | 6,727.8 | 37.0 | 51.9 | 71.2 | 37.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | (0.7) |

Source: Citigroup Investment Research

Deal is EPS Accretive From Year-1

According to our estimates, Whyte & Mackay is accretive from year-1. We estimate 15% accretion to pre-exceptional EPS in FY08E, increasing to 36% in FY09E and 40% in FY10E. Our estimates are based on UNSP management's guidance of GBP50m (Rs4100m) EBITDA (pre restructuring and acquisition related expenses) for Whyte & Mackay. We would also like to highlight that our estimates for Whyte & Mackay for FY08E (Sep '07 year end for Whyte & Mackay) are only for 5 months (May-Sep), pro-rated against full year estimates. The deal will become effective from May, so for FY08E, we expect only 5-months of Whyte & Mackay's earnings to be consolidated. However, we estimate that if we were to account for the restructuring costs and acquisition-related expenses (one time), the acquisition will likely be accretive in FY08E only to the extent of 3%.

We expect UNSP to be able to aggressively pay down the debt raised to fund Whyte & Mackay. The company is likely to sell its treasury stock (15% of equity) soon. We assume a selling price of Rs900 per share in FY08E, which should allow for significant debt repayment. In addition, the combined cash flows of Whyte & Mackay and UNSP will accelerate, which should allow the further debt repayment. Our analysis is enumerated below:

Figure 3. Whyte & Mackay – Deal Economics

| | United Spirits | | | Whyte & MacKay | | | Combined | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | FY08E | FY09E | FY10E | FY08E | FY09E | FY10E | FY08E | FY09E | FY10E |
| Sales | 32469 | 36651 | 41286 | 16200 | 17334 | 18547 | 48669 | 53985 | 59833 |
| EBITDA | 6083 | 6986 | 8041 | 3362 | 4334 | 4637 | 9445 | 11319 | 12678 |
| <i>EBITDA Margin (%)</i> | <i>18.7</i> | <i>19.1</i> | <i>19.5</i> | <i>20.8</i> | <i>25.0</i> | <i>25.0</i> | <i>19.4</i> | <i>21.0</i> | <i>21.2</i> |
| Interest | -945 | -765 | -675 | -608 | -482 | -326 | -1553 | -1247 | -1001 |
| Depreciation | -487 | -511 | -536 | -644 | -670 | -695 | -1131 | -1181 | -1231 |
| Other Income | 500 | 500 | 500 | 16 | 24 | 24 | 516 | 524 | 524 |
| PBT | 5152 | 6209 | 7331 | 2126 | 3206 | 3640 | 7278 | 9415 | 10970 |
| Tax | -1700 | -2049 | -2419 | -425 | -640 | -910 | -2125 | -2689 | -3329 |
| Net Profit | 3452 | 4160 | 4911 | 1701 | 2566 | 2730 | 5153 | 6727 | 7641 |
| EV of Whyte & Mackay (Rsm) | 48380 | | | | | | | | |
| Equity value of Whyte & Mackay (Rsm) | 41090 | | | | | | | | |
| Treasury Stock Sales (@Rs900/share) | 12758 | | | | | | | | |
| Free Cash Flow of Combined Entity (Rsm) | | | | | | | 5093 | 6709 | 7674 |
| Incremental Debt on books to Fund Acquisition (Rsm) | | | | | | | 23239 | 16530 | 8856 |
| Incremental Interest - tax adjusted (@ 8%) | | | | | | | -1301 | -926 | -496 |
| Other Adjustments | | | | | | | 70 | -292 | -625 |
| Combined Net Profit post acquisition (Rsm) | | | | | | | 3921 | 5526 | 6756 |
| Combined EPS (Rs) - Pre-exceptional items | | | | | | | 41.5 | 58.5 | 71.5 |
| Current United Spirits EPS (Rs) | | | | | | | 35.8 | 43.2 | 50.9 |
| <i>(Dilution) / Accretion (%) - pre-exceptional items</i> | | | | | | | <i>15.9%</i> | <i>35.5%</i> | <i>40%</i> |

Source: Citigroup Investment Research; assuming exchange rate of 1GBP=Rs81

Whyte & Mackay Has Secure Cash Flows

Whyte & Mackay's cash flow profile has been significantly de-risked based on its bulk scotch supply contracts that it has with large global scotch players. According to the UNSP management, the put options that Whyte & Mackay has on its scotch inventory will secure over 60% of the projected profits over the next 4-5 years. Management has indicated US\$100m (Rs4100m) of EBITDA profits for Whyte & Mackay for FY08E (Sep '07) and guided at 20% EBITDA profit growth over the next 5-years. Whyte & Mackay's options significantly de-risk the business profile and give us comfort over UNSP's ability to service and pay down debt that it has borrowed to fund the acquisition.

Whyte & Mackay a Good Strategic Fit for United Spirits

We view Whyte & Mackay as a good strategic fit for United Spirits. It will significantly enhance UNSP's plans to expand its presence in the Indian premium whisky segments, as well as expand into fast growing Chinese and Russian markets. In addition, Whyte & Mackay will provide UNSP access to the European market, though we expect UNSP's focus to remain on the Indian market. UNSP is well positioned to enhance the value of Whyte & Mackay's inventory of scotch whiskey, by providing access to a ready and fast-growing market for premium whisky.

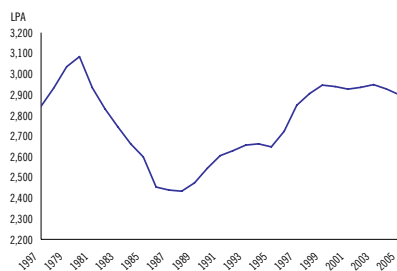
Figure 4. Acquisition Synergy Analysis

● Favorable
○ Unfavorable

| Critical success factors | Global Competitors in India | USL | USL W & M |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Ownership of premium scotch whisky brands | ● | ○ | ● |
| Access to scotch assets | ● | ○ | ● |
| Distribution strength | ○ | ● | ● |
| Manufacturing set up | ○ | ● | ● |
| Portfolio strength | ○ | ● | ● |
| Understanding of Indian consumers | ○ | ● | ● |

Source: Citigroup Investment Research; United Spirits

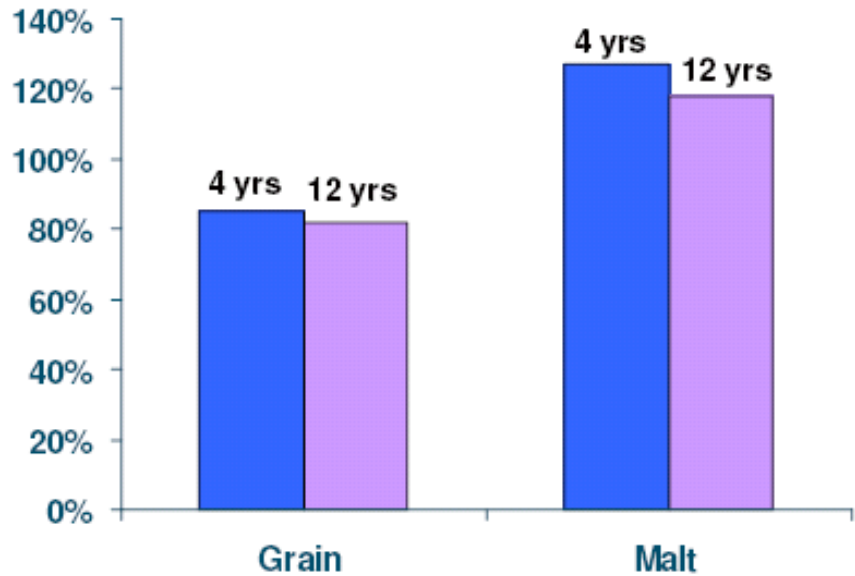
Figure 5. Scotch Whisky Inventories at Bonded Warehouses (LPA)



Source: Scotch Whisky Association

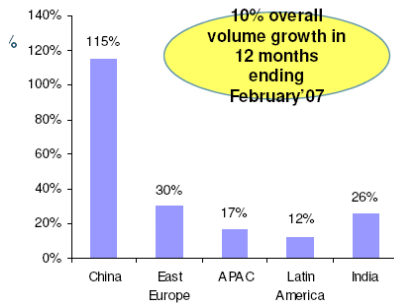
The primary benefit to UNSP from Whyte & Mackay will be instant **access to a large inventory of scotch and secure long-term scotch supply**. According to the UNSP management, the total scotch inventory held by Whyte & Mackay is about 140m litres. The inventory has varying age profile, which oldest inventory having matured for 65 years. The inventory is valued at almost US\$700m-US\$800m, based on its current broking price. Value could be enhanced through bottling and branding this inventory. Access to this inventory makes UNSP self sufficient for its scotch requirement, which is likely to increase significantly, as demand for higher-end blends and scotch whisky in India increases. Globally, scotch prices have started to increase, mainly driven by strong demand from Asia and pickup in consumption of single malt whisky in the US and declining inventories of scotch. According to the management of UNSP, scotch prices have increased by 75%-120% over the last few months.

Figure 6. Increase in Scotch Prices Since August 2006



Source: United Spirits presentation

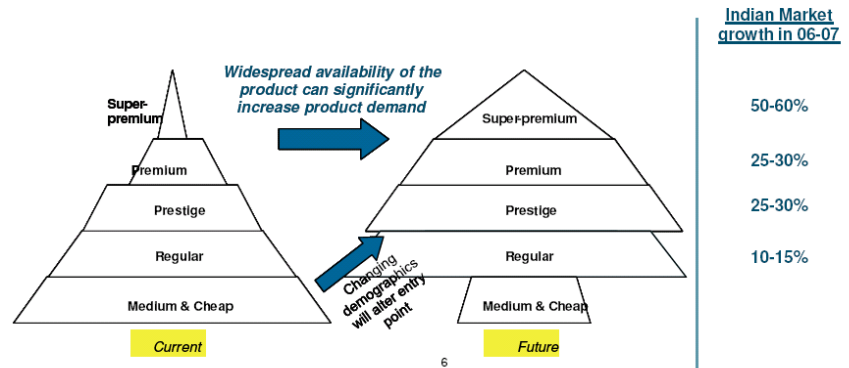
Figure 7. Scotch Consumption Growth



Source: Scotch Whisky Notebook

Overall, global demand for scotch has picked up to 10%, with demand from emerging markets at over 20%. China, India and Russia are the key emerging market demand centers. In terms of volumes, Indian whisky (manufactured and consumed predominantly in India) constitutes 19% of total global whisky volumes (although a much lower value contribution due to lower per unit selling price). Whiskey consumption in India is growing at almost 12% per annum, though consumption of scotch whiskey is likely to grow at almost 30% per annum; albeit from a very low base. As such, Indian whiskey manufacturers import bulk scotch to blend with locally manufactured spirits. Demand for high end liquor in India is rising rapidly and scotch requirements for Indian manufacturers are increasing as a result. Last year, UNSP imported almost 18 million litres of bulk scotch to blend with its Indian whisky brands. Overall bulk scotch imports to India grew by almost 90% yoy in 2005. We expect the scotch requirement to increase substantially, as Indian consumers migrate toward higher-end whisky, which typically has a higher percentage of scotch blend.

Figure 8. Changing Mix Profile of Indian Whisky

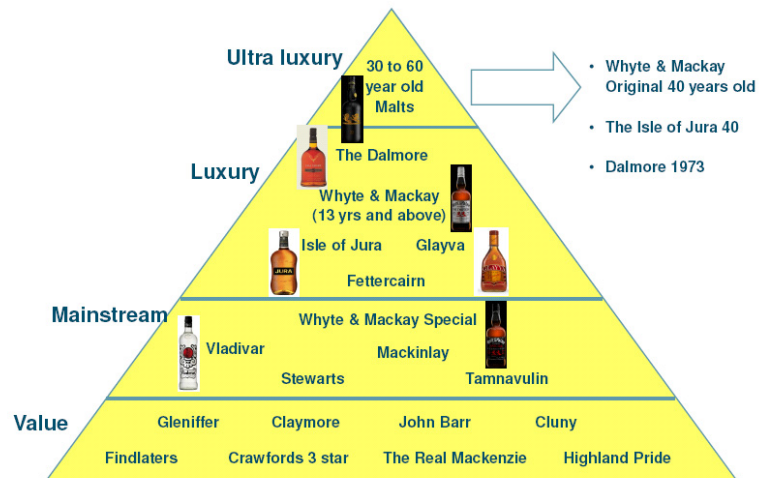


Source: United Spirits presentation

UNSP has set up joint ventures to distribute its brands in **Russia and China**, other important and fast-growing scotch-whisky markets, besides India. We believe that Whyte & Mackay's brands will provide a significant leg-up to UNSP's growth strategy in these markets. Like India, China is also an important market for scotch whiskey and its consumption of scotch grew by 115% yoy for 12 months ending February 2007. Overall global

Whyte & Mackay also has an array of about 140 brands positioned across various segments. Whyte & Mackay has of-late focused only on about 6-7 of its top brands. We believe that there could be tremendous potential to exploit the potential of some of the dormant brands, especially in the Asian markets.

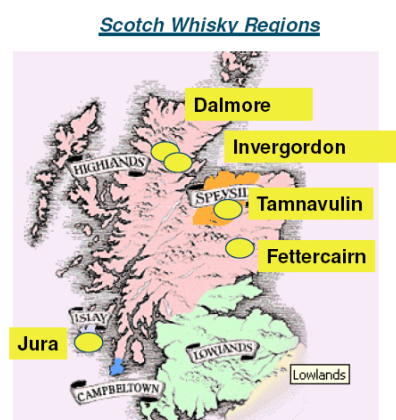
Figure 9. Whyte & Mackay's Brand Segmentation



Source: Citigroup Investment Research

We also view the potential acquisition of Whyte & Mackay pre-emptive to the impact of likely reduction of import tariffs on imported liquor in India. Currently, total tariffs on imported liquor in India are over 250%. The European Union has been lobbying with the Indian government for a reduction in import duties, and has also taken this up with the WTO. We believe that chances of import duty reductions are fairly high. Duty reductions would make imported liquor more competitive, and it is likely that imports of bottled scotch into India will increase significantly. UNSP would look to pre-empt rising competition at the highly profitable top end of the market through entrenching its own scotch brands into the market and creating brand loyalty before foreign imports start to increase. Whyte & Mackay has a wide array of brands that UNSP can market in India.

Figure 10. Whyte & Mackay Distillery Map



Source: United Spirits presentation

We believe that UNSP will be able to enhance the profitability profile of Whyte & Mackay. We estimate that of Whyte & Mackay’s total scotch sales almost 70% is sold as bulk to bottlers / private label retailers, at relatively lower margins compared to branded sales. UNSP will be able to drive a shift in product mix favorable toward branded bottled whisky by driving sales in India and China.

Whyte & Mackay’s Assets

Whyte & Mackay is a scotch whisky manufacturer with a 9% share of the total global scotch market. Its key brands include Whyte and Mackay Scotch Whisky, Dalmore Single Highland Malt, Isle of Jura Malt Whisky, Glayva Liqueur and Vladivar Vodka. The company is also the world’s leading supplier of own-label, private label and branded Scotch Whisky. Whyte & Mackay owns five distilleries in each scotch whisky region in Scotland. It owns 1 grain-based distillery (Invergordon), which has a capacity of 40m litres per annum, and can be expanded to 80m litres with an investment of about US\$20m (Rs820m). It also has four other malt based distilleries and a bottling facility in Grangemouth with a capacity of producing 12 million cases per annum.

Figure 11. Key Distilleries owned by Whyte & Mackay

| Distillery | Location | Capacity | Key Brands Bottled |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Dalmore | Highlands - North | 3.2m litres | The Dalmore 12 Year Old The Dalmore Cigar Malt The Dalmore 21 Year Old The Dalmore 50 Year Old The Dalmore 20 yo cask expression The Dalmore Black Pearl and Black Isle The Dalmore Stillman’s 28yr Old |
| Fettercairn | Highlands - East | 1.6m litres | Fettercairn 12 yo single malt 1824 Fettercairn Single cask bottling 15 yo sherry wood Fettercairn Single cask bottling 15 yo American oak |
| Invergordon | Lowlands | 40m litres | The Invergordon Single Grain 10 Year Old |
| Isle of Jura | Jura | 2.5m litres | Isle of Jura 10 Year Old Isle of Jura "Superstition" Isle of Jura 16 Year Old Isle of Jura 21 Year Old Isle of Jura 27 Year Old Isle of Jura 33 Year Old Isle of Jura 36 Year Old |
| Tamnavulin (closed) | Speyside | NA | Tamnavulin 12 Year Old Tamnavulin 25 Year Old (distilled 1966) |

Source: Scotchwhisky.net

Financial Analysis of Consolidated Entity

We have consolidated our earnings estimates and balance sheet for United Spirits with that of Whyte and Mackay. We expect Whyte & Mackay to significantly enhance the earnings profile of United Spirits. We have consolidated Whyte & Mackay starting FY08E, so comparisons with FY07 may not be like-to-like. Also, for FY08E, we have only consolidated 5-months earnings for Whyte & Mackay, given that the acquisition is effective from May (year end for Whyte & Mackay is September; September 07 will be consolidated with FY08E of UNSP).

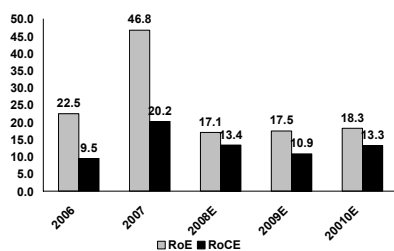
We forecast a Sales CAGR of 30% over FY07-FY10E for the combined entity, although we are estimating like-to-like sales growth CAGR of 13%, which we believe is conservative and does not take into account potential upside from pricing, and sales to China and Russia. We expect EBITDA margins to expand, driven by the changing mix profile of Whyte & Mackay (from bulk to branded) and operating leverage from scale. We forecast net profit CAGR of 41% over FY07-FY10E. We expect UNSP to be able to pay down its debt rapidly, driving a progressive decline in its interest costs.

Figure 12. Income Statement (UNSP + Whyte & Mackay) Rupees in Million, Percent

| Year to 31 March | 2006 | 2007 | 2008E | 2009E | 2010E |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Net Sales | 18,994 | 25,311 | 35,351 | 49,654 | 55,069 |
| <i>Growth (%)</i> | <i>74</i> | <i>33</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>11</i> |
| Income from brand franchise | 774.3 | 1045.4 | 1202.2 | 1346.4 | 1481.1 |
| Sale from tie-up units | 1716.7 | 2317.5 | 2665.1 | 2984.9 | 3283.4 |
| Total Income | 21484.7 | 28673.9 | 39218.8 | 53985.1 | 59833.1 |
| <i>% YoY</i> | <i>85.9</i> | <i>33.5</i> | <i>36.8</i> | <i>37.7</i> | <i>10.8</i> |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Materials | -11331.9 | -14623.7 | -20784.2 | -29775.9 | -32905.1 |
| <i>As % of Sales</i> | <i>52.7</i> | <i>51.0</i> | <i>58.8</i> | <i>60.0</i> | <i>59.8</i> |
| Manufacturing and other expenses | -8230.0 | -8986.4 | -10663.6 | -12889.8 | -14249.8 |
| <i>As % of Sales</i> | <i>38.3</i> | <i>31.3</i> | <i>30.8</i> | <i>30.4</i> | <i>30.0</i> |
| Total expenditure | -19561.9 | -23610.1 | -31447.9 | -42665.7 | -47154.9 |
| EBITDA | 1922.7 | 5063.8 | 7770.9 | 11319.3 | 12678.3 |
| <i>EBITDA Margin (%)</i> | <i>8.9</i> | <i>17.7</i> | <i>19.8</i> | <i>21.0</i> | <i>21.2</i> |
| Interest and finance charges | -1524.2 | -1417.9 | -1920.0 | -2760.0 | -2360.0 |
| Depreciation | -425.6 | -462.4 | -755.1 | -1181.0 | -1231.4 |
| Other Income | 596.1 | 425.9 | 505.8 | 516.2 | 524.3 |
| PBT | 569.0 | 3609.4 | 5601.6 | 7894.6 | 9611.2 |
| Provision for taxation | -122.9 | -1191.1 | -1680.5 | -2368.4 | -2883.4 |
| <i>Tax Rate (%)</i> | <i>21.6</i> | <i>33.0</i> | <i>30.0</i> | <i>30.0</i> | <i>30.0</i> |
| PAT | 446.1 | 2418.3 | 3921.1 | 5526.2 | 6727.8 |
| <i>Growth (%)</i> | <i>21.0</i> | <i>442.1</i> | <i>62.1</i> | <i>40.9</i> | <i>21.7</i> |
| Exceptional Items | 0.0 | 2656.7 | -286.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| PAT & Exceptional and other items | 446.1 | 5075.0 | 3634.3 | 5526.2 | 6727.8 |
| Associates | -4.8 | -6.0 | -7.5 | -9.3 | -11.7 |
| Minority Interest | 828.7 | -10.0 | -20.0 | -30.0 | -40.0 |
| Profit after associates and minority | 1270.0 | 5059.0 | 3606.8 | 5486.9 | 6676.2 |

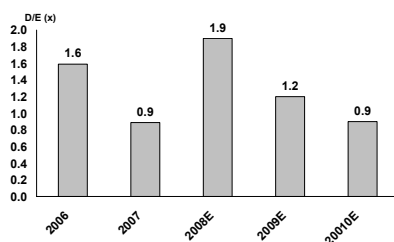
Source: Citigroup Investment Research

Figure 13. RoE and RoCE Trend (%)



Source: Citigroup Investment Research

Figure 14. Gearing Trend (x)



Source: Citigroup Investment Research

On the balance sheet size, we estimate the debt level for the combined entity to go up significantly on FY08E, though we expect part of old debt on UNSP's books to be retired in FY08 itself through sale of treasury stock, which is built into our estimates. We expect debt to equity ratio of about 1.56x in FY08E (post sale of treasury), manageable in our view. We expect the company to retire its debt aggressively (management has hinted at making Whyte & Mackay completely debt free in the next 4 years), which should result in gearing declining to about 0.9x by FY10E. We expect near-term capital efficiency profile to decline as a result of increase in debt, but expect it to pick up going forward.

Figure 15. Balance Sheet (UNSP + Whyte & Mackay) Rupees in Million, Percent

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008E | 2009E | 2010E |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Capital | 605 | 945 | 945 | 945 | 945 |
| Share Capital Suspense | 224 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves and Surplus | 7,589 | 12,277 | 28,087 | 32,794 | 38,445 |
| Shareholders Funds | 8,418 | 13,222 | 29,032 | 33,739 | 39,390 |
| Minority Interest | 1,285 | 1,285 | 1,285 | 1,285 | 1,285 |
| Loan Funds | 15,431 | 12,890 | 43,500 | 39,000 | 34,000 |
| Secured Loans | 10,081 | 8,390 | 39,000 | 34,500 | 29,500 |
| Unsecured Loans | 5,350 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Deferred Tax Liability | 86 | 86 | 86 | 86 | 86 |
| Total Liabilities | 25,220 | 27,483 | 73,903 | 74,110 | 74,761 |
| Fixed Assets | 4864 | 4936 | 4799 | 4637 | 4451 |
| Gross Block: | 6056 | 6606 | 15157 | 15611 | 16065 |
| Less: Depreciation | 1218 | 1680 | 2167 | 2679 | 3215 |
| Net Block | 4838 | 4926 | 12990 | 12932 | 12850 |
| Capital Work in Progress | 26 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Goodwill on Consolidation | 10835 | 10835 | 49887 | 49887 | 49887 |
| Investments | 2485 | 3000 | 3010 | 3010 | 3010 |
| Current Assets, Loans and Advances | 14414 | 18290 | 25591 | 27358 | 29744 |
| Inventories | 2945 | 3606 | 11819 | 12140 | 12736 |
| Sundry Debtors | 3220 | 4161 | 7530 | 8198 | 8946 |
| Cash and Bank Balances | 3611 | 5167 | 212 | 234 | 422 |
| Other Current Assets | 728 | 801 | 881 | 969 | 1066 |
| Loans and Advances | 3909 | 4556 | 5148 | 5818 | 6574 |
| Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions | 7376 | 9577 | 17584 | 19087 | 20739 |
| Liabilities | 6311 | 8406 | 15001 | 16336 | 17807 |
| Provisions | 1065 | 1171 | 2583 | 2751 | 2932 |
| Net Current Assets | 7037 | 8713 | 8007 | 8271 | 9005 |
| Total Assets | 25,220 | 27,483 | 73,903 | 74,110 | 74,761 |

Source: Citigroup Investment Research

United Spirits

Company description

United Spirits is the largest player in India's branded spirits market. It pursues an inorganic growth strategy, with its latest acquisition being the second-largest Indian liquor manufacturer, Shaw Wallace. The acquisition has significantly enhanced its competitive position, increasing its market share in branded spirits to 53%. It is also exploring international growth opportunities, and recently acquired French winemaker Bouvet Ladubay — the wine arm of champagne major Taittinger. It has also recently concluded a leveraged buy out of Whyte & Mackay, the fourth largest scotch whiskey company in the world.

Investment thesis

We rate United Spirits a Buy (1L), with a target price of Rs1250. India's organized liquor market is growing at a rate of 13%, driven by rising disposable incomes, favorable demographics and a shift in consumption patterns. Being the market leader, United Spirits looks well positioned to benefit from this growth rate. Its acquisition of Shaw Wallace has strengthened its competitive position. It has a 53% share of India's organized liquor market, which is characterized by high entry barriers. United Spirits is exploring international acquisitions to fuel growth. It has recently acquired Whyte & Mackay, the 4th largest scotch company in the world. The acquisition is EPS accretive and is a good strategic fit. It will significantly enhance UNSP's plans to expand its presence in the Indian premium whisky segments, as well as expand into fast growing Chinese and Russian markets. In addition, Whyte & Mackay will provide UNSP access to the European market, though we expect UNSP's focus to remain on the Indian market. UNSP is well positioned to enhance the value of Whyte & Mackay's inventory of scotch whiskey, by providing access to a ready and fast growing market for premium whisky. Steady sales growth, margin expansion and lower interest costs should drive an EPS CAGR of 40% in FY07-49E. United Spirit's capital efficiency is looking up amid strong earnings growth.

Valuation

Our target price of Rs1250 is based on 25x P/E for mid-FY09E. Our target multiple is at a 10-15% premium to the global 2008E average in recognition of 1) United Spirit's dominant position in India's liquor market, 2) strong demand growth of 13%, driven by rising incomes and market-share gains at the expense of the unbranded sector, 3) high barriers to entry, and 4) a 40% three-year EPS CAGR, almost 2x higher than the global peer group average. Our target multiple is at a 10-15% discount to the average 2008E multiple for the Indian consumer universe in view of the company's much higher gearing (vs. net cash for the Indian consumer universe) and lower capital-efficiency ratios. We use adjusted EV/EBITDA as our second valuation methodology and ascribe a multiple of 15x FY08E EV/EBITDA, which equates to Rs1230. Our EV/EBITDA multiple is almost at par with the 2008E global peer group average multiple, which we believe is conservative.

Risks

We rate United Spirits Low Risk based on our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day historical share-price volatility. The key downside risks to our rating and target price include: 1) the liquor industry is highly regulated. Any change in policy (like increase in taxes, further control on distribution or an outright ban on liquor sales in some states) could adversely impact growth and profitability. 2) Easing the norms for entry of foreign players could increase competition and hurt growth prospects. 3) The company is looking for international acquisitions. Any bad buyout would result in further pressure on gearing and interest costs. 4) A general slowdown in GDP / income growth could lead to slowdown in market growth and sales 5) Post acquisition of Whyte & Mackay, gearing has increased significantly, increasing cash flow risks 6) UNSP will also need to successfully integrate Whyte & Mackay.

Appendix A-1

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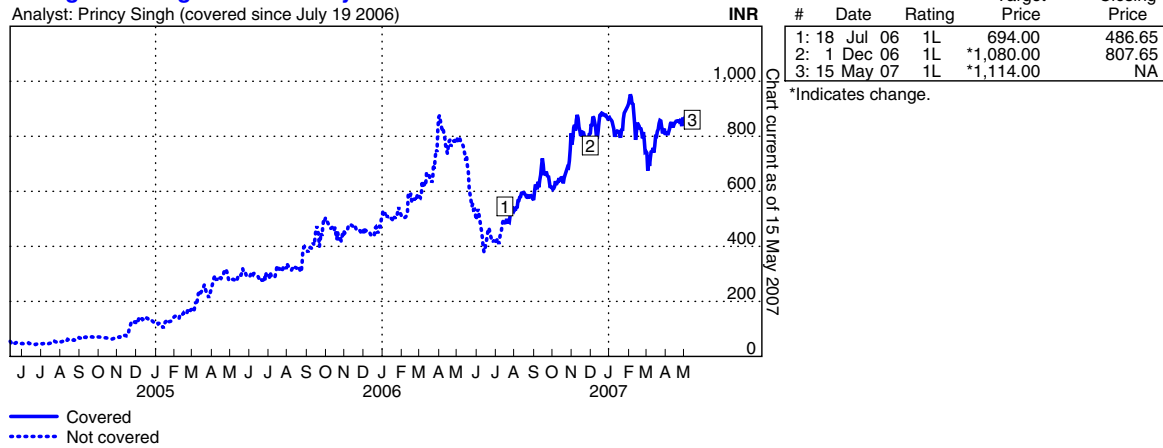
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United Spirits (UNSP.BO)

Ratings and Target Price History - Fundamental Research

Analyst: Princy Singh (covered since July 19 2006)



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| <i>% of companies in each rating category that are investment banking clients</i> | 42% | 50% | 42% |
| Thailand -- Asia Pacific (41) | 49% | 20% | 32% |
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