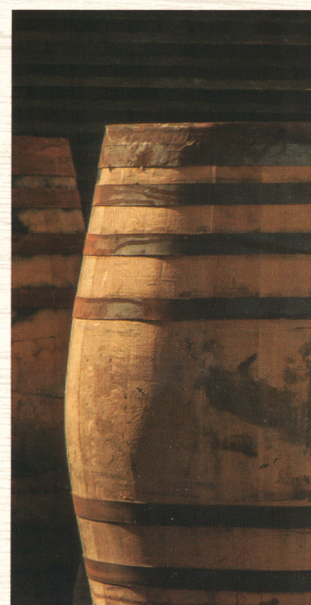


distilled.

the craft and culture of fine spirits

Whither terroir in whisky? In Issue 5 we look to the **Pacific Northwest** and **Scotland's Orkney** islands for an answer. We navigate the heat of **Jerez**, visit with Maestro Roneros in **Cuba** and explore the spirit of Nuyorica in the **Bronx**. Travel is thirsty work so we contemplate the dual personality of the hip flask.



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SOME NEW FINDS AND OLD FAVOURITES

Single estate tequila; check. Single estate rum; check. Single barrel cachaça, check. Beautiful people making beautiful grappa and organic gin so good you'll be drinking the latter neat, and mixing the former with tonic and ice. Check. World beating belters of single malt whisky from opposite ends of the Earth. Check. How Aladdin must surely have felt upon entering the magic cave...



THREE SHIPS 10 YEAR OLD
STYLE: SINGLE MALT WHISKY REGION: SOUTH AFRICA ABV: 44.6%

Without question one of the world's great single malt whiskies is being made in South Africa by Andy Watts at the James Sedgwick Distillery in Wellington. Bottled as a vintage, this 10 Year Old was distilled in 2005 and is a siren call to Bowmore, Andy's training ground in a circuitous path that started in England as a cricket player and took him to the Western Cape, where he transitioned to a career in distillation. He eventually made it to Scotland and availed himself of the opportunity to learn from luminaries in Scotch whisky, most notably Jim McEwan.

This latest limited edition is a testament that the student has surpassed the master, with a nose that transports you to Islay with phenols and tar, its barley sugars wrapped in the embers of a peat fire, and a long, smoky finish. Doubtless taking a cue from winemakers, this whisky has been further fermented over the winter to allow the yeast to develop with as little temperature control as possible. The end game is a rich and creamy single malt so round and fruity that it drinks like a peated brandy, which is perhaps no small surprise for a whisky made in the heart of wine country. From South Africa with love – and right back at you, Andy.



NOMAD OUTLAND WHISKY
STYLE: BLENDED WHISKY
REGION: SPAIN
ABV: 41.3%

This collaboration begins life in Scotland as a blend of thirty malts and grains married in ex-Oloroso casks, before being transferred to the bodegas of Jerez for a final maturation in ex-Pedro Ximénez casks, the darkest, thickest and sweetest of sherry wines. The result is a surprisingly delicate whisky of finesse, yet one so thoroughly couched in sherry it is more akin to a whisky liqueur. This much sweetness can be polarising, but for those who prefer their dessert in a glass, this makes an elegant close to a leisurely meal.



GERMANA SINGLE BARREL
STYLE: CACHAÇA
REGION: BRAZIL
ABV: 41%

Those who enjoy blind tastings will have fun nosing this savoury spirit reminiscent of a rich beef stock with lashing of Lee & Perrins, only to have it pivot 180° on a palate so minty and fresh you'll reach for a julep cup. It is one of the many joys to be had exploring premium cachaça, a species rarely seen outside Brazil, making this single barrel a welcome balm for those who appreciate the bass-like funk of distilled cane. Meant for sipping, not mixing, but go ahead and use in your caiparinha – if you must.



THOMPSON BROS ORGANIC GIN
STYLE: GIN
REGION: SCOTLAND (HIGHLANDS)
ABV: 45.7%

Full disclosure: we count these brothers as friends, and look forward to great whisky from the Dornoch distillery. But their first product is a tour de force, an imaginative and moreish gin infused with freeze dried raspberries, before being blended with a small portion of new make spirit double distilled from floor malted heritage barley. The nose alone could lead a horse to drink, but it's the palate that truly comes alive with fresh citrus, conifer and a berry sweetness that begs you to spare the tonic and ice. Swipe right, natch!



RICHLAND RUM
STYLE: RUM
REGION: USA
ABV: 43%

We have much esteem for this agricole-styled rum, made by Erik and Karin Vonk using syrup pressed from sugar cane harvested on the 1,800 acres of their Georgia estate. What began as a hobby has morphed into one of most stellar examples of craft distilling to come out of the U.S., with its rich, concentrated texture, seductive earthy notes and a subtle, grassy mien. A dry, herbaceous finish is a further timely reminder that this is unadulterated with sugar or other additives. A world class rum in our own backyard; who knew?



ISLE OF HARRIS
STYLE: GIN
REGION: SCOTLAND (OUTER HEBRIDES)
ABV: 45%

How to be distinct without losing the plot; or, how to make great gin. The Isle of Harris distillery manages this delicate balancing act by letting the juniper share equal billing with notes of grapefruit and citrus, and adding locally harvested sugar kelp for an underlying sweetness and floral finish. It makes for a beautiful spirit that upgrades your G&T, and also plays nice with others in classics like the Negroni or the Last Word. And then there's that bottle. We dare you to try and throw it away...



PIGER HENRICUS
STYLE: GIN
REGION: CANADA
ABV: 43%

Yet another gin that skates on the edge of quirky – what else do you expect from a distillery called The Subversives? Nosing like a forest floor of mushroom, mulch and moss, this little piggy is reminiscent of an Old Tom Gin with an earthy, farmyard sweetness courtesy of parsnips. It makes for an adventure on the palate when you want a cocktail that goes off-piste, or just looking to add a third dimension to your G&T. Weird but we like: kudos for stepping up to the line, without actually crossing it.



TOMATIN 12 YEAR OLD
STYLE: SINGLE MALT WHISKY
REGION: SCOTLAND (HIGHLANDS)
ABV: 43%

Tomatin continues to fly under the radar while ramping up value for money which makes their whiskies an easy gamble. This renovated 12 Year Old is a gingery malt that has been given a make-over with a topcoat of sherry, bringing to mind a Calvados with its lovely floral notes, juicy plumpness and dry, tart finish, itself a refreshing change of pace. Equally refreshing is Tomatin's penchant for clean, simple packaging, age statements and cask information. Who knows, perhaps these things still matter to someone, somewhere...



GRAPPA NONINO
STYLE: GRAPPA
REGION: ITALY (FRIULI)
ABV: 43%

Those already bored by gin (who, us?) would be well rewarded to investigate the many faces of grappa, and this entry point to the Nonino family's range is a fantastic introduction, a fresh and floral spirit, with a honeyed mien, and soft and lush on the finish, almost embarrassingly so. Equally at home in cocktails, on ice, or in a tulip stem served neat, a bottle of this will have you looking forward to substituting grappa in your next G&T.