

BOURBON

98 Boulder Distillery Colorado Straight Bourbon 2021 Cask #3 (USA; Lost Lantern, Weybridge, VT). This single cask has a deep coppery hue and an enticing, creamy caramel aroma. The bold palate matches that plush caramel note, layering it with hints of red fruit, fresh-roasted coffee bean, and walnut, drying to a delicately spiced finish. Limited edition, 181 bottles.
abv: 69% Price: \$105

97 Barrell Bourbon Batch 031 (USA; Barrell Craft Spirits, Louisville, KY). Nuanced vanilla and tropical fruit aromas introduce this blend of straight bourbons, aged from six to 16 years. The palate opens with brown sugar and mouthwateringly savory spices, cayenne and clove. Adding water dials in an espresso note, while a fleeting pineapple hint emerges on the exhale.
abv: 55.6% Price: \$90

97 Old Fitzgerald 11 Years Old Bourbon (USA; Heaven Hill Distillery, Bardstown, KY). Concentrated caramel tinged with toffee and espresso leads the nose. The bold palate offers more of the same, though a splash of water adjusts the flavor to a more dry, leathery tone, finishing long with ginger, black pepper and tobacco highlights. Bottled in Bond, Fall 2021 Edition.
abv: 50% Price: \$110

94 Freeland Spirits Bourbon (USA; Freeland Spirits, Portland, OR). Finished in Pinot Noir barrels from Oregon's Elk Cove, this bourbon shimmers with dark fruit and spice. Vanilla and caramel are layered with dark cherry, dried fig and fruit leather, finishing long with clove and black pepper.
abv: 46% Price: \$49

94 Hinterhaus Calaveras Cask Finish Bourbon (USA; Hinterhaus Distilling, Arnold, CA). A blend of bourbons finished in four California wine barrels, intended to replicate a popular wine blend. The result: allspice, cola and sarsaparilla aromas, leading into a bracing palate with burnt almond and oak, finishing with a big, drying exhale of cinnamon and burnt orange peel. Best Buy.
abv: 46% Price: \$39

94 Hotel Tango Reserve Bourbon (USA; Hotel Tango, Indianapolis, IN). A warming whiskey that's like wrapping up in a big blanket: vanilla, oak and cocoa lead into nutty, palate-coating finish laced with leather, cigar wrapper, and just a hint of butter-scotch and warming spice.
abv: 45% Price: \$60

94 Still Austin The Musician Bourbon (USA; Still Austin Whiskey, Manor, TX). For those who prefer a sweeter-style bourbon. Vanilla and brown sugar aromas lead into a velvety palate that echoes those notes, braced up with black pepper tingle. Made with Texas-grown grains.
abv: 49.2% Price: \$45

94 Watershed Distillery Ohio Straight Bourbon 2021 Cask #2 (USA; Lost Lantern, Weybridge, VT). This is a single cask bourbon made with five grains, including local spelt, and aged five years. The end result is a complex, drying sipper. Think espresso with no sugar or milk in sight, mixed with lightly bitter walnut skins and burnt orange peel. The distinctly nutty midpalate evolves into a long, puckery finish laced with clove and black pepper.
abv: 59.4% Price: \$100

94 The Wiseman Bourbon (USA; Stoli Group Kentucky Owl, Lacassine, LA). The sweet vanilla aroma is echoed on the palate, where it's accompanied by perky pops of allspice, ginger and clove heat, gliding into a smooth finish tinged with almond. This is a blend of bourbons aged between three and six years.
abv: 45.4% Price: \$60

93 Case Study Tennessee Straight Bourbon (USA; Capita Spirits, Highland Beach, FL). A smooth ribbon of vanilla studded with baking spice leads into a brisk, black peppery finish. Adding water brings out a gentle nutty tone, plus a lemon peel hint.
abv: 47% Price: \$45



93 Five & 20 Spirits Straight Bourbon (USA; Five & 20 Spirits, Westfield, NY). The first sips offer oak, toffee and clove, accented with a hint of dark fruit. Adding water brings out lighter, nuttier flavors, pleasantly suggesting peanut brittle, brown butter, caramel corn and maple. Best Buy.
abv: 45% Price: \$40

93 Monk's Road Fifth District Series Cold Spring Distillery Bourbon (USA; Log Still Distillery, Gethesmane, KY). Bold vanilla and oak aromas introduce this single-barrel, six-year-old bourbon. Spice is the leading characteristic; a splash of water helps mellow the big alcohol bite, letting cinnamon and baking spice wind into a long vanilla finish paired with a hint of sherry-like golden raisin.
abv: 50% Price: \$80

COGNAC & OTHER BRANDY

97 Cognac Park XO Limited Edition (Lunar New Year). (France; Skurnik Wines & Spirits, New York, NY). A limited-edition Cognac in honor of Lunar New Year, look for concentrated caramel aromas and an expressive palate that opens with cocoa laced with clove and cayenne piquancy. The long, complex finish unfurls dried cherry, toffee, allspice and a hint of orange peel, leading to a final leathery exhale. Aged a minimum of 10 years.
abv: 40% Price: \$117

96 Remy Martin 1738 Accord Royal (France; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY). This Cognac has a deep amber hue and bold allspice and caramel aromas. The palate opens with concentrated caramel and toffee, winding into a deep, warming finish dusted with espresso, black pepper and clove.
abv: 40% Price: \$77

95 Larsen Aqua Ignis Cognac (France; Marussia Beverages USA, Cedar Knolls, NJ). This Cognac is aged in barrels that are "steam-toasted," meaning it's immersed in water, then toasted. The end result is a deep amber hue and pleasing hazelnut, cocoa and vanilla on nose and palate. Hints of dried cherry and date lead into a nutmeg and cinnamon-flecked finish. Enjoy alongside a dessert pairing or mix into cocktails. No age statement.
abv: 42.3% Price: \$50

94 Navazos Palazzi Pedro Ximenez Single Cask Brandy (Spain; PM Spirits, Wilmington, DE). This is a brandy de Jerez aged in oloroso casks, then finished three years in very old sweet Pedro Ximenez casks. The end result is an extraordinarily complex sipper that almost reads like a cocktail. The deep brown hue and bold dried fig aromas signal richness. While the first sips mingle toffee, maple, dried fruit, the finish is surprisingly dry and brisk, showing walnut skin, a hint of grapefruit peel, and cinnamon and cayenne glow. Bottled at cask strength, plan to add water or ice to mellow the appropriately fiery edge. Limited edition: 720 bottles produced.
abv: 43% Price: \$121 for 375 ml

94 Vaudon VSOP Cognac (France; Ivy Imports, Staten Island, NY). Mild coconut and baked apple aromas reveal a palate lightly accented with violet and almond. The robust, warming palate brings clove, cayenne, and ginger glow, glossed with a bit of vanilla. 10 years old.
abv: 40% Price: \$60

94 Delamain Ancestral (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY). This single cask Cognac has a tawny hue and aromas of oak and cocoa powder. The palate opens with perky baking spice and mouthwatering lemon peel astringency, layered with touches of honey, coconut and almond. The long, drying finish is touched with leather and dusty nutmeg.
abv: 43% Price: \$217

93 BrandyLab California Brandy (USA; O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, Parlier, CA). Made with California grapes, this small-batch bottling combines brandies aged from five to 10 years. Look for an amber hue and mild mocha scent. Each sip shows black cherry, fresh fig and cocoa powder, with a creamy nougat hint on the clove-accented finish. The final exhale whispers of chocolate-covered brandied cherries. An ideal dessert pairing. Limited edition of 400 cases.

abv: 40%

Price: \$35 for 375 ml



93 Tycoon VS Cognac (France; Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA). A new brand from American rapper E-40, this Cognac has concentrated vanilla aromas. Creamy caramel and cocoa coat the palate, finishing warming with teasing clove and black pepper heat.

abv: 40%

Price: \$45

92 Courvoisier VS Cognac (France; Beam Suntory, Chicago, IL). Mild oak and almond aromas lead the nose. Dried fig, raisin and baked apple sit beneath a light blanket of vanilla, exiting with brisk baking spice and a flicker of alcohol heat. Best Buy.

abv: 40%

Price: \$35

91 Seven Tails XO Brandy (France; Shaw Ross International, Miramar, FL). What's in the bottle is blend of Cognac, Armagnac and other French brandies, finished in an emptied port cask. The end result is a tawny hue and mild allspice and almond aromas. The bright palate opens with brisk oak and tingly ginger, leading into stone fruit and a finish that blossoms with baking spice. It almost reads like a spiced rum, but make it brandy. Best Buy.

abv: 41.8%

Price: \$40

GIN

96 Uncle Val's Zested Gin (USA; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA). Warm star anise, cinnamon bark and a teasing whiff of cocoa nibs perfumes this gin. The palate opens with a sweet, tingly mintiness that lifts off the palate, winding into a citrusy finish laced with lime peel astringency.

abv: 45%

Price: \$39

95 Procera Gin (Africa; MHW, Manhasset). Distilled in Kenya and made from fresh (not dried) juniper plus a dozen other botanicals from Africa, this gin has a delicate floral aroma and clean, brisk palate. Mild coriander, lavender and lemon peel make an ideal backdrop for Martinis and more.

abv: 44%

Price: \$85



92 Tommy Bahama Island Gin (USA; Coral Cay Distilling, Cashmere, WA). A fresh, vegetal take on gin. Spearmint, anise and a hint of celery entice the nose. The palate is similarly light and refreshing, showing fennel, celery seed, cucumber and coriander, finishing with zingy white pepper and lemon peel. Mix into G&Ts or any drink with fresh juices.

abv: 46.5%

Price: \$55

92 Hendricks Neptunia Gin (Scotland; William Grant & Sons, New York, NY). This sea-inspired gin is a limited release infused with "coastal botanicals," such as sea kelp and coastal thyme. Look for mild juniper on nose and palate, winding into a complex, mouthwatering finish laced with subtle floral notes, grapefruit peel, eucalyptus, white pepper and a saline hint.

abv: 43.4%

Price: \$40

91 Boatyard Double Gin (Ireland; Boatyard Spirits, New York, NY). Sweet gale—a shrub also known as bog myrtle—supplies this gin's earthy, woody warmth. Lemon peel and grapefruit pith lead into dusty spices, cedar shavings and coriander, finishing dry and bracing. Best Buy.

abv: 46%

Price: \$32



91 Silks Irish Dry Gin (Ireland; Prestige Beverage Group, Mendota Heights, MN). Bold, herbaceous aromas suggest eucalyptus, and fresh basil. The minty palate has a similar vegetal edge, leading into a tingly, faintly floral exhale. Botanicals include apple blossom, Irish honey and elderflower.

abv: 42%

Price: \$40

LIQUEUR



95 Fleur Charmante Liqueur (France; Blue Ridge Spirits, Atlanta, GA). This complex, garnet-hued liqueur macerates blackcurrant, raspberry and cherry with violet, lavender and jasmine "essence." Appropriately, the aroma mixes ripe berries and violet, plus a faint minty whiff. The palate entices with juicy raspberry and faint florality—the floral notes tease but never overpower. The exhale is fresh, with a minty note returning. Producer recommends mixing with sparkling wine.

abv: 23%

Price: \$37

94 Sorel Liqueur (USA; JackFromBrooklyn, Brooklyn, NY). Inspired by the heritage of founder Jackie Summers' grandparents, who emigrated from Barbados to NYC, and relaunched in 2021, this liqueur has a bright ruby hue and cinnamon-spiced aroma. On the palate, the light-bodied liquid opens with a light floral note – hibiscus is a key ingredient – giving way to baking spice and a final dried cherry exhale. It's reminiscent of mulled wine; serve warm or chilled.

abv: 15%

Price: \$42

92 Rivulet Artisan Pecan Liqueur (USA; C88 Holdings, Louisville, KY). Think pecan pie in a glass. This is a sticky-sweet little crowd-pleaser, with its amber hue, bold toasted pecan aroma and rich, full-bodied palate that mingles vanilla, caramel drizzle and nuts, leading into a lightly spiced finish. Sip with dessert or drop a little into whiskey as a sweetener.

abv: 30% **Price:** \$35

92 Villon (France; Sovereign Brands, New York, NY). VSOP Cognac and a French wheat spirit form the base of this liqueur. Distinctly sweet raisin, vanilla, and spiced orange aromas waft from the glass. The syrupy palate offers maple, candied orange peel and candied ginger, leading to a smooth vanilla finish accented with cinnamon and clove.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$45



91 Harpy Limoncello Liqueur (USA; Michigrain Distillery, Lansing, MI). Look for a pale yellow hue, with a touch of sediment visible (made with real lemons, this is normal, the producer says). The bold, bright lemon lollipop aroma leads to a tart, only slightly sweet palate with a bitter lemon pith hint. The finish is brisk, with hints of pine and bracing alcohol bite. Refreshing; serve chilled. Woman-owned brand, family recipe from Italy, no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives.

abv: 32% **Price:** \$37

91 Tia Maria Matcha Cream Liqueur (Italy; DiSaronno International, Somerset, NJ). Here's one for fans of the Japanese green tea. Look for a pale olive-green hue and mild, earthy aroma. The creamy, silky palate has a faint but distinct matcha flavor, finishing slightly nutty, with a subtle cocoa powder exhale. Best Buy.

abv: 17% **Price:** \$25

RUM

96 Appleton Estate Black River Casks (Jamaica; Campari America, New York, NY). Look for a deep amber hue and bold, enticing caramel and coffee bean aromas, plus a hint of red fruit. The velvety palate echoes those notes, adding succulent toffee and hazelnut, leading to a long, complex finish accented by orange peel. Sip or mix this rum, aged 15 years minimum.

abv: 43% **Price:** \$65

95 Plantation Rum Under the Sea Panama 2008 (Panama; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Stamford, CT).

This burnished gold rum offers delicate grilled pineapple and violet aromas. The palate shows loads of fruit, pineapple but also grapefruit peel and a hint of coconut sweetness. Cayenne and cinnamon sizzle enlivens butterscotch richness on the finish.

abv: 45.7% **Price:** \$80



94 Kuleana Hawaiian Rum Agricole (USA; Kuleana Spirits, Kawaihae, HI). Made from the fresh-pressed juice of 40 sugarcane varieties grown on the producer's farm in Kohala, Hawaii, this single estate white rum has an enticing grassy aroma and lively palate that bounces from hints of green banana and lemongrass to a lightly peppery, mentholated finish. Mix into all the mojitos.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$57

93 Copalli Cacao Rum (Belize; Copalli Spirits USA, Nashua, NH). This is a single-estate white rum infused with organic cacao nibs, and it's lovely, more complex and clean than most flavored rum. Lychee and banana aromas lead into a concentrated, lightly sweet palate laced with vanilla sugar and cocoa powder, finishing long and slightly nutty, enlivened by a bit of white pepper tingle on the exit. Best Buy.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$31

92 Old Line Aged Caribbean Rum - Single Malt Cask-Finished (Dominican Republic; Old Line Spirits, Baltimore, MD). Distinct coconut aromas lead into a lively palate that tingles with ginger and black pepper heat. Coconut and browned butter lead into a taut finish laced with lemon and grapefruit peel. This is a blend of seven- to 11-year-old Dominican Republic rums finished for an additional year in casks that previously held Old Line's American single malt whiskey.

abv: 50% **Price:** \$35



92 Navigator Reserve Rum (Panama; Precision Wines & Spirits, St. Helena, CA). Pleasing vanilla aromas lead into a velvety palate with plenty of vanilla bean, brown sugar and a hint of coffee. The exhale dries to oak and walnut skin. Aged five years. Best Buy.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

92 Holmes Cay Barbados 2012 Port Cask (Barbados; Windside Spirits, White Plains, NY). This is a single cask rum distilled at Foursquare Rum Distillery. Expect an amber hue and vanilla and caramel aromas. The palate opens with toffee and walnut, with a drying finish that shows a fleeting hint of raspberry compote sprinkled with cracked black pepper. Add water or ice to tone down the heat and coax out a cocoa powder hint.

abv: 55% **Price:** \$99



91 Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum (USA; Hard Truth Distilling, Nashville, IN). The producer says this rum is made with "toasted flaked coconut with cane sugar and natural sea salt." Look for a bold, sweet coconut aroma and syrupy-thick palate loaded with vanilla, almond and toasted coconut. The salt adds a pleasing, addictive quality, like a tropical version of salted caramel. Best Buy.

abv: 21% **Price:** \$28

RYE

98 Wild Turkey Rare Breed Barrel Proof Rye (USA; Wild Turkey, Lawrenceville, KY). Mild almond and cinnamon aromas lead into cocoa and caramel on the surprisingly luscious, lip-smacking palate. Adding water coaxes out mulling spices, orange flesh and peel, finishing with a final dazzle of ginger and cinnamon. Released in 2020.
abv: 56.1% **Price:** \$60



97 Milam & Greene Port Finished Rye (USA; Milam & Greene, Blanco, TX). Complex and enticing, this rich take on rye has a notably deep, ruddy hue and toffee and red fruit aromas. The big, bold palate opens with dusty cocoa and mild cinnamon heat. Adding water brings out plush butterscotch and peanut brittle, finishing with a red fruit note and plenty of warming spice.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$50

97 Stauning Rye (Denmark; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Complex and delicious, this deep-flavored rye opens with espresso, dark chocolate and hints of campfire smoke and barrel char. The finish long, toasty and warming, spiced with allspice, clove and caraway. It's a bit like a s'more made on slices of dark-toasted rye bread.
Abv: 48% **Price:** \$80

96 A Midwinter Nights Dram, Act 9 (USA; High West Distillery, Park City, UT). The ninth annual release of this blend of straight rye whiskies, this year finished in ruby and tawny port barrels, is as excellent as ever. Toffee and espresso aromas include a faint spearmint whiff. Oak, toffee, and dried cherry lead the palate; a splash of water brings out an intriguing leathery note and hints of plum skin and dried cranberry tartness. The final exhale channels dark chocolate-covered dried cherries, finishing with echoes of menthol and clove.
abv: 49.3% **Price:** \$100

96 Woodford Reserve Rye (USA; Woodford Reserve Distillery, Versailles, KY). A classic rye profile. The rich vanilla fragrance leads to a relatively lean flavor profile, showing espresso, charred oak, unsweetened chocolate and clove. The finish is satisfyingly long and drying. Sip with a cube of ice and maybe a curl of orange peel. Best Buy.
abv: 45.2% **Price:** \$35

95 New Riff Malted Rye (USA; New Riff Distilling, Newport, KY). Concentrated toffee aromas mix with cocoa richness. Lively and luscious at the same time, the palate is redolent with juicy red fruit and toffee, finishing long and mouthwatering with orange peel, a fleeting toasted coconut note and a flurry of baking spice. This 100% malted rye is aged six years and bottled in bond.
abv: 50% **Price:** \$60

94 Old Overholt 11 Year Rye (USA; Beam Suntory, Frankfort/Clermont, KY). Balance is the word here: the aroma balances oak and vanilla, while the palate balances cocoa powder and vanilla sweetness with lemon peel brightness, finishing with gentle cinnamon and cayenne piquancy. A versatile workhorse for cocktails, if you can bear to mix it. Limited edition in honor of the company's 210th anniversary.
abv: 46.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Rabbit Hole Boxergail Rye (USA; Rabbit Hole Distillery, Louisville, KY). The tempting aroma mixes vanilla bean and cinnamon. The drying palate opens with roasted grain and espresso, plus a mouth-watering salinity. Adding water transforms the flavor to roasty, nutty tones, mixing hazelnut and peanut with mocha and leading to an invigorating finish sprinkled with clove, cinnamon and black pepper.
abv: 47.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Whistlepig FarmStock Beyond Bonded Rye (USA; Whistlepig, Shoreham, VT). This whiskey is made with 100% rye grain harvested from Whistlepig's Vermont farm, the grain-to-glass rye the producer has been working toward for years. Happily, it was worth the wait. Look for concentrated toffee and oak aromas. Toasted grain leads the expressive palate, framed by hints of roasted coffee beans, honeycomb and vanilla, leading into a drying finish accented with lemon peel zing and baking spice.
abv: 50% **Price:** \$100

93 High Plains Rye (USA; JW Rutledge Distillery, Middletown, KY). This is the inaugural bottling for High Plains, a blend of five straight rye whiskies from four distilleries in four states (Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, New York). The end result is complex, opening with cayenne and clove sizzle, rounding into vanilla and caramel. Adding water softens the effect to mocha, oatmeal cookie and pecan pie, finishing with baking spice and a buttery, toasty exhale.
abv: 48.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Pinhook TizRyeTime (USA; Castle & Key, Woodford County, KY). Oaky and rootsy aromas lead into a palate that is pure toffee, accented by allspice and clove. Adding water layers on a hint of milk chocolate, drying into a concentrated blast of allspice on the exhale. Aged five years.
abv: 51.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Jefferson's Straight Rye Whiskey Finished in Cognac Casks (USA; Pernod Ricard, New York, NY). The mild aroma shows a hint of dried apricot, which is echoed on the drying palate. Adding water

layers on toasted brioche, with a gentle, drying fade shaded with lemon peel and gingery glow.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$70

SHOCHU

97 Kana Shochu (Japan; Honkaku Spirits, Manhasset, NY). Complex and multi-layered, this shochu has a faint pale straw tinge and mild, mellow almond aromas. Toasted coconut and butterscotch richness leads into a lively, tingly finish with lemon pepper, tarragon and pine. Sip or mix. Distilled from kokuto (black sugar) and rice, and aged in oak casks at least one year.
abv: 30% **Price:** \$68



95 MUJEN Original (Japan; Mujen Spirits, Los Angeles, CA). This lively, bracing rice-based shochu offers a mild, citrusy aroma and clean, crisp palate that reflects a grapefruit peel zing. A fleeting saline hint creates a refreshing, mouthwatering finish. Sip or mix into martinis and lemon drops.
abv: 35% **Price:** \$40

94 Iichiko Saiten Shochu (Japan; Davos Brands, New York, NY). Toasty, warm cocoa and roasted almond on nose and palate lead into a bracing finish. Lemon peel astringency is framed by white pepper and ginger heat. 100% barley, including the koji. Best Buy.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$33

94 Mizu Shochu (Japan; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Miami, FL). Think spa water with a kick: bright, lively aromas suggest lychee and rosewater, plus a faint raspberry note. The palate opens dry and finishes long with a delicate cantaloupe hint accented by grains of paradise. Distilled from barley (67%) and black koji rice (33%). Best Buy.
abv: 35% **Price:** \$35

TEQUILA

97 Don Fulano Anejo (Mexico; E. & J. Gallo Winery, Modesto, CA). Aged in a mix of casks that previously held Burgundy, Bordeaux and Loire wines, this complex tequila is one to savor. Bell pepper and jalapeno aromas mingle with mild honey and cinnamon sweetness. The plush palate echoes that sweetness and spice, leading into a long finish tinged with cocoa and vanilla, plus a final zing of jalapeno heat.
abv: 40% Price: \$80



96 Partida Roble Fino Anejo (Mexico; Tequila Partida, Oakland, CA). This is an anejo tequila finished for five months in casks that previously held single malt whisky, and sherry before that. The end result is a golden hue and subtle agave and baking spice aromas. The mouthwatering palate shows broad strokes of vanilla, oak and roasted nuts. Faint smokiness wafts into the finish, transforming the citrusy exhale into burnt grapefruit peel.
abv: 40% Price: \$125

96 Casa Komos Anejo Cristalino (Mexico; MHW/ Casa Komos, Manhasset, NY). This tequila was aged in French oak white wine barrels, filtered for clarity, then aerated in clay amphorae. All this yields a liquid with a faint straw tinge and slightly floral aroma warmed with cooked agave. The silky palate is lightly sweet, with toasted coconut and almond leading into a gentle, mouthwatering finish accented with lemony acidity and pink peppercorn. The deep blue ceramic bottle makes it gift-worthy, too.
abv: 40% Price: \$120

95 Expresiones del Corazon George T. Stagg Anejo (Mexico; Sazerac, Frankfort, KY). This tequila was aged 22 months in barrels that previously held George T. Stagg bourbon, yielding a pale straw hue and light coconut and almond aromas. The flavors are lush but light, opening with brown sugar and cocoa powder and exiting with a grassy, herbaceous exhale and flurry of sweet spices: star anise, cardamom, cinnamon.
abv: 40% Price: \$80



94 Seleccion Suprema de Herradura Extra Anejo (Mexico; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). Vanilla, almond and baking spice aromas entice. The silky palate opens with vegetal jalapeño and bell pepper, sliding into a long, honeyed finish sprinkled with fiery cayenne, cinnamon and clove. Aged 49 months.
abv: 40% Price: \$350



94 Bribon Anejo (Mexico; Palm Bay, Port Washington, NY). Light, fresh aromas suggest honeysuckle and a hint of pear. The palate echoes those notes, layering on toasted coconut and hints of fresh basil and thyme, landing gently with white pepper and a curl of lemon peel. Aged 18 months in ex-bourbon casks. Best Buy.
abv: 40% Price: \$30



94 Tepozán Anejo (Mexico; Tequila Tepezan, Sherman Oaks, CA). The bold aroma mixes jalapeno and agave nectar, plus a grassy hint. Honey and almond sweetness leads the palate, heading into a notably long, mouthwatering finish laced with vanilla, clove and white pepper. Overall, a lively mix of sweetness and spice. Aged 14 months in ex-bourbon barrels.
abv: 40% Price: \$65

94 Tequila Enemigo 00 Extra Anejo (Mexico; Trinity Wine & Spirits, New York, NY). This burnished gold tequila opens with allspice and cinnamon aromas. The silky palate reflects those spices, along with hints of dried cherry, cocoa powder and oak. The finish is long, lip-smacking and delicately spiced. Pair with dark chocolate.
abv: 40% Price: \$170



93 Teremana Anejo (Mexico; Siete Bucks Spirits, White Plains, NY). The newest expression from the brand backed by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson offers zesty jalapeño and vanilla aromas. Honey and butterscotch coat the palate, enlivened by bracing clove, cayenne and white pepper on the exit. The overall impression suggests a butter cookie rolled in spices. Best Buy.
abv: 40% Price: \$37



93 El Tequileño Anejo Gran Reserva (Mexico; Southern Glazer, Miramar, FL). This tequila has a golden and bright appearance and buttery, toasty aromas. The palate opens lightly sweet, suggesting honey-roasted nuts and a gentle honeysuckle note into a brisk, drying finish laced with black pepper. Created in collaboration with winemaker Randy Ullom, this is a blend of a two-year old añejo and six-year-old extra añejo. Released January 2021.
abv: 40% Price: \$90



93 Severo Anejo Cristalino (Mexico; Hotaling & Co., San Francisco, CA). Some cristalinos seem designed to strip out tequila character; this one honors its roots. The agave flavor strides forward from the first sip, flanked by mild brown sugar and honey tones. The light, drying finish shows coconut and jalapeno heat.

Price: \$80

92 PaQui Anejo (Mexico; PaQui Tequila, New York, NY). This is a bright, fresh tequila that successfully preserves the nuances of agave. Look for a burnished gold appearance and lively roasted bell pepper and agave aromas. The palate feels light, showing jalapeno and bell pepper, with just a hint of almond and toasted coconut midpalate. The herbaceous exhale suggests fresh oregano and thyme, accented by white pepper tingle. Aged 12 months in used American oak.

abv: 40%

Price: \$65



92 El Diamante Del Cielo Tequila Anejo (Mexico; R.S. Lipman, Nashville, TN). Aged for up to four years in small oak barrels, this tequila offers confectionary aromas and flavors. Look for a tawny hue and luscious brown sugar, vanilla and allspice, with hints of cookie dough and cocoa powder leading into a finish marked by a flurry of baking spice.

abv: 40%

Price: \$60

90 Patron Sherry Cask Aged Anejo Tequila (Mexico; Bacardi, Coral Gables, FL). This is a limited-production tequila matured for more than two years in Oloroso sherry barrels. The end result is a deep honey hue and fruitcake-like aromas: think

golden raisin, dried fig, and roasted nuts. The palate mingles dried cherry with cranberry tartness and lemon peel acidity, plus hints of brown sugar and molasses, with a drying, lemony-tart finish.

abv: 40%

Price: \$80

VERMOUTH

98 Mancino Sakura Vermouth (Italy; Fasel Shensstone, Seattle, WA). This enticing, pale ballet-slipper pink vermouth offers delicate floral aromas of Kyoto cherry blossoms and Italian violets, along with a beautifully juicy, fruity palate—think white peach and lychee, with a curl of grapefruit peel on the exhale. A 2021 limited edition of 4,000 bottles, both Italy and Japan are part of the inspirational and literal mix. Sip or mix into blossom-garnished martinis.

abv: 18%

Price: \$45/500 ml

97 BCN MUT Negre Barrel Aged Dry Vermouth (Spain; De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC). What's in the bottle: a vermouth made from old-vine Grenache grapes and aged several months in French oak. This mellow, barrel-aged vermouth has a deep espresso-brown hue and dried fig and date aromas. The flavor is nutty, fruity and rich, echoing dried fig alongside dried cherry, grapefruit peel astringency and walnut.

abv: 18%

Price: \$42

97 Cocchi di Torino Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Haus Alpenz, Edina, MN). Look for a pale straw hue and fresh green apple and white flower aromas. The palate is zippy and remarkably light, with mouth-watering lemon peel and the barest hints of fresh herbs and peppermint on the super-clean, brisk exhale. Martini-worthy.

abv: 17%

Price: \$23/500 ml

95 Oscar.697 Vermouth Bianco (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY). Ripe pear, savory dried herbs and a hint of almond richness create an enticing aroma. The palate opens distinctly honeyed and sweet, with grilled pineapple drying to a lightly bitter citrus peel finish. Delicious.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

95 Bertola Vermouth Jerez (Spain; Grapes of Spain, Lorton, VA). The base is a blend of oloroso and Pedro Ximenez Sherries; look for a rich, spiced nose and palate enriched by dried fig, date and raisin, plus plenty of clover honey, vanilla and baked apple. The lightly bitter finish is enlivened by clove, cinnamon and orange peel. Sip or mix with whiskey or rum.

abv: 15%

Price: \$25

95 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Extra Dry (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). Faint whiffs of savory dried oregano and juicy pear lead into a bone-dry palate. Fresh-cut grass and an echo of pear lead into a drying, citrusy finish. Best Buy.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$15

95 Tosti 1820 Riserva Taurinorum Vermouth di Torino (Italy; Tosti USA, Manhasset, NY). This honeyed vermouth opens with apricot, honey and almond on nose and palate, leading into a long, slightly sticky, nutty finish, with a faint white flower hint. Moscato is the base wine, with lots of orange in the botanicals.

abv: 17%

Price: \$28

94 Vermut Flores Rosé Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA). Look for a pretty blush hue and mild floral aroma with a fleeting berry hint. The palate echoes the juicy berry note, braced up with grapefruit pith bitterness and finishing with peach nectar and a mild floral exhale. Nice as a chilled aperitif. Best Buy.

abv: 16%

Price: \$17



94 Poli Gran Bassano Bianco Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a burnished gold hue and an aroma mixing dried herb and floral notes: lavender and elderflower are part of the mix. The palate opens lightly bitter, with grapefruit peel and coriander leading into mellow golden raisin brushed with honey. A mild dried herb note emerges on the finish.

abv: 18%

Price: \$27

93 Dos Déus Origins Red Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). Everything here is deep, dark and delicious, from the inky hue to the rich cocoa, blackberry and dried fig aromas. The smooth palate echoes those dark fruit flavors: more dried fig and date, leading to plum skin pucker and a mocha hint on the drying exhale. Maturation in sherry and Priorat barrels lends extra dried fruit richness. Mix into whiskey cocktails.

abv: 15%

Price: \$30

93 Mastrogiannis Sweet Vermouth (USA; Mastrogiannis Distillery, Lakewood, WA). Look for a rusty orange hue and allspice and baked apple aromas. The palate suggests mulled cider, with baking spice leading into dried fig and baked apple, leading into hints of dried cherry, waxy honey and cayenne heat on the finish. Sweetened with Washington wildflower honey.

abv: 21.6%

Price: \$25

93 D.co Ulrich Bianco di Torino (Italy; Soilair Selection, New York, NY). Overall, this golden vermouth is restrained and complex. Dried apple, dried herb and hay aromas lead into a lightly sweet palate. Ripe pear provides the core, surrounded by hints of green apple and lemon peel acidity, plus a gentle tarragon and coriander exhale.

abv: 16% Price: \$24

93 Villa Massa Giardino Sweet Vermouth di Torino Tradizionale (Italy; Zamora, Dallas, TX). Look for a transparent plum hue and mild, savory aromas, including a faint mesquite smoke hint. The palate is rich but not heavy: bold red fruit—cherry, cranberry, raspberry jam—leads into a drying finish with an orange peel accent. Mix into Manhattans.

abv: 16% Price: \$29

VODKA

95 Naud Vodka (France; M.S. Walker, Norwood, MA). Distilled from French wheat, this vodka has a pristine profile that winds into mouthwatering salinity—like the barest sprinkle of sea salt with a subtle dose of almond sweetness. Vodka purists will want to enjoy on the rocks.

abv: 40% Price: \$30

95 True Legacy Premium Vodka (USA; Spirits Lab Distilling, Newburgh, NY). For those who prefer as neutral a vodka as possible, here's your bottle to pour or pair. Look for a light, clean palate, which hovers on the edge of savoriness but ultimately pulls back, and a warming finish.

abv: 40% Price: \$27

94 Vintage Distilling Handcrafted Vodka (USA; Vintage Distilling, Los Angeles, CA). Complex and bracing, this vodka offers flickers of spearmint and lemon peel tang, leading into a faintly floral exhale accented by white pepper sparks. The overall effect is clean and appealing, though some might suggest it veers into gin-like territory.

abv: 40% Price: \$27



93 Archipelago Lava Rock Vodka (Philippines; HPS Epicurean, Ramona, CA). This vodka is filtered over lava rocks from the volcanoes of Taal and Mayon. The end result is lightly sweet, with mild hints of candied lemon and grapefruit peel astringency, finishing with ginger sparks.

abv: 45% Price: \$35



92 Strait Up Killer Vodka (USA; James Bay Distillers, Everett, WA). Distilled from wheat and corn, this vodka has a neutral aroma and teasing savory hints that suggest cumin and coriander—but blink and it's gone. The brisk finish is punctuated by black pepper heat. Mix into Bloody Marys.

abv: 40% Price: \$31

91 Village Vodka (USA; Village Garage Distillery, Bennington, VT). Look for a slight citrus tinge in the aroma. The palate hints at vanilla and coconut, plus a charcoal tinge, landing softly with a white pepper accent. A head start for sweeter-style drinks. Best Buy.

abv: 40% Price: \$22

90 American Liquor Co. Vodka (USA; American Liquor Co., Temperance, MI). This exciting new "seed to swig" vodka was overseen by Minneapolis distiller Chris Montana. It starts with a quartet of Midwest ingredients: wheat, rye, potato and corn, blended into a singular distillate. Look for mild tropical fruit—faint but distinct hints of banana and coconut—on nose and palate. The assertive, drying finish is spiced with white pepper and ginger sparks. Best Buy.

abv: 40% Price: \$23

WHISKEY

96 Crown Royal 18 Extra Rare (Canada; Diageo, New York, NY). A new release for 2022, this blended Canadian whiskey has a tawny hue and rich vanilla and maple aromas. The complex, slightly candied palate suggests almond croissant, buttery brioche, banana bread and lots of nutmeg, cardamom and cinnamon, winding into a warming finish. It's a whole delicious bakery in a glass.

abv: 40% Price: \$140

95 Cedar Ridge American Single Malt Whiskey The Quintessential Signature Blend (USA; Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, IA). Look for a light gold hue and bright, enticing pineapple, pear and vanilla aromas. The palate echoes those fruit tones, wrapped in a veil of peat smoke, finishing mouthwatering, lively and bright. This American single malt is finished in various sherry, brandy, rum and wine casks, "meticulously married and matured," the producer says.

abv: 46% Price: \$60

95 George Dickel Bottled in Bond Tennessee Whiskey (USA; Cascade Hollow Distilling, Tullahoma, TN). This is Dickel's second bottled-in-bond release, distilled in 2008 and released at 11 years old. Bottled at 100 proof, it's a powerhouse of a whiskey, in terms of strength and flavor. Resounding caramel and toffee intertwine into a long, mouthwatering fade, accented with cinnamon sizzle and a hint of caramel apple. Mix into whiskey sours and other cocktails. Best Buy.

abv: 50% Price: \$40

95 Journeyman Distillery Pit-Spitter Cherry Flavored Whiskey (USA; Journeyman Distillery, Three Oaks, MI). File under: not every whiskey needs to be serious. This flavored whiskey is just fun. It startles with its garnet hue and distinct dried cherry aroma. The palate is more puckery cranberry and lemon than cherry at first; adding water moves the dial to sweet-tart, suggesting fruit leather and dried cherry. It's not overly sweet, and it's easy to see enjoying this lengthened with ginger ale or fizzy water. As flavored whiskeys go, this one is a success.

abv: 35% Price: \$45

94 Downslope Single Malt Whiskey (USA; Colorado Craft Spirits, Centennial, CO). A distinctly smoky aroma emerges the moment this whiskey is poured. The palate shows baked apple and ripe pear, mingling with a smoky, saline flavor. Adding water pushes the smoke forward even further, now wafting over hints of salted caramel and vanilla wafer, finishing with ginger zing. Overall, complex and intriguing.

abv: 40% Price: \$65

94 Jack Daniel's Bonded Tennessee Whiskey (USA; Jack Daniel's Distillery, Lynchburg, TN). Caramel and oak aromas lead the nose, plus a wallop of alcohol heat. The big, oaky palate echoes the caramel note, rounding into a long, warming finish with plenty of mouthwatering butterscotch, clove and peppery heat. Tasty, full-strength and clearly meant for mixing. One of two new permanent expressions added to the line-up in May 2022. Best Buy.

abv: 50% Price: \$30

94 Rampur Asāva Indian Single Malt Whiskey (India; SG Worldwide, Edison, NJ). Matured in ex-bourbon barrels and finished in Indian Cabernet Sauvignon casks, this single malt offers a topaz hue and bold dried fruit flavors. Dried date, fig and gingerbread wind into a mocha midpalate and long finish laced with sandalwood, cardamom and allspice.

abv: 45% Price: \$90

93 Cotswolds Sherry Cask Single Malt Whisky (England; Cotswolds Imports USA, Manhasset, NY). This English single malt is matured in casks seasoned with dry oloroso and sweet PX Sherries. The result is brown sugar and marzipan aromas. The palate only fleetingly echoes that sweetness, leading into sandalwood and cedar, finishing with piquant lemon and ginger and cayenne heat. Mix into Penicillins; you've got a head start here.

abv: 57.4% Price: \$120

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