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FREE DURING AUGUST 2012



CHRISTIAN KROGSTAD of HOUSE SPIRITS

BY MATTHEW SINGER

PHOTOS BY ANTHONY PIDGEON ▲
& MORGAN GREEN-HOPKINS ►

Christian Krogstad founded House Spirits Distillery (2025 SE 7th Ave., 235-3174, housespirits.com) in 2004, operating out of a “small, dingy rental space” in Corvallis that he outgrew within a year. On Craigslist, he found a 4,200-square-foot warehouse in a Southeast Portland area now known as Distillery Row.

“It looked huge, like we’d never fill it up,” he says, balancing on a stool inside the adjacent wood-paneled tasting room. “We did.”

Indeed, the building is nearly packed to bursting with stills, bottles and barrels. House Spirits ships about 2,000 cases per month of its whiskey, Aviation Gin and Krogstad Aquavit labels across the country and world. It’s a testament not just to the company, but to the craft spirits explosion over the past decade. For almost 20 years, there were only a handful of small distilleries in the entire country. Today, there are more than a dozen in Portland alone.