

BOISE | weekly

Small-Batch Northwest Gin

Gin equals grin

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As summer heats up, there's nothing more refreshing than an icy gin and tonic on the back porch or a cool gin martini on a misty bar patio. The first two gins in this week's tasting shy away from the juniper-dominance that turns off many drinkers in favor of a complex blend of botanicals, while the third is made in a more traditional gin style. Added bonus: All three are crafted in the Northwest.

Aviation American Gin, \$26.95

Ranked the No. 1 gin in *Wine Spectator's* Top 50 Spirits Awards in 2012, Aviation has quickly become a bartender's staple. Crafted by Portland, Ore.'s House Spirits, this gin is made by steeping juniper, dried orange peel and a handful of spices in neutral grain spirits then redistilling into the final product. The result is the least "gin-like" of the three, with a muted juniper nose; smooth, viscous mouth feel; and not-too-boozy finish.