



The best craft distillers in America, as voted by a spirited panel of liquor writers



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The spirit world can be a terrifying place. But amongst bottom of the barrel wells, powerful multi-national conglomerates you had no idea existed, and really scary ghosts, there stand a few crafty heroes whose passionate dedication to delicious liquor serves as an inspiration to all. These are the craft distillers.

Admittedly there's no firm definition for "craft". It's kind of like pornography -- you just know it when... you hear your buddies talk about it. So to spotlight the best distillers in America, we

asked 15 of our distinguished cocktail writer buddies to pick their 10 favorites and explain why they belong on your shelf.

The Best

CRAFT DISTILLERS IN AMERICA

AS VOTED BY A SPIRITED PANEL OF LIQUOR WRITERS

Scoring

WE ASKED 15 DISTINGUISHED COCKTAIL CONNOISSEURS TO RANK THEIR TOP 10 CRAFT DISTILLERIES. #1 picks earned 10 points, and #2 got 9, all the way down to #10, which got 1 point plus a firm handshake. Then we tallied the points to crown the champion distiller, plus 49 very honorable mentions.

Ranking



01.	ST. GEORGE SPIRITS	86 PTS
02.	NEW YORK DISTILLING COMPANY	74 PTS
03.	BALCONES DISTILLING	51 PTS
04.	CLEAR CREEK DISTILLERY	34 PTS
05.	HIGH WEST DISTILLERY	33 PTS
06.	TUTHILLTOWN SPIRITS	31 PTS
07.	CHARBAY DISTILLERY & WINERY	28 PTS
08.	HOUSE SPIRITS DISTILLERY	27 PTS
09.	LEOPOLD BROS.	26 PTS
10.	CORSAIR DISTILLERY	23 PTS
11.	CRAFT DISTILLERS	22 PTS



8. House Spirits Distillery

Location: Portland, OR

The spirits: Aviation American Gin, Volstead Vodka, Westward Oregon Straight Malt Whiskey, Krogstad Festlig Aquavit

The distillery: The shining star of Portland's distillery row, House Spirits prides itself on the ethical sourcing of ingredients, and probably on alternative modes of transit.

From the judges: "The hallmark brand of this Portland distillery is Aviation Gin, melding floral notes like lavender with spicy notes like cardamom that goes well in a martini. But there are so many other surprises in Christian Krogstad's House Spirits portfolio, such as an aquavit that goes down easily, an unaged white whiskey devoid of harsh burn, and an addictive coffee liqueur I've drizzled over ice cream more times than I'd like to admit." - Alia Akkam, Edible Queens