

RUM

Made from a base of sugar cane and its by products, rum is a versatile and satisfying drink, currently gaining enormous popularity and resurgence with the fashionistas of the bar drink scene.

The historical home of rum is considered to be the West Indies, Guyana, and other parts of South America. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad were the largest rum producers, closely followed by Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Facunado Bacardi established a distillery in Santiago, Cuba in 1862. His brand is now the biggest selling international spirit brand (and not just rum!) in the world.

Rum is a spirit distilled from sugar cane or molasses (the syrupy residue left over after sugar has been refined). As always in distillation, yeast and water are added to begin fermentation. The fermentation liquid (the wash) usually undergoes distillation several times in copper pot stills - the same as the ones used to make brandy or whisky. The resulting spirit is always clear. To produce golden or darker rums, the spirit is aged in oak barrels (often ex-bourbon barrels). These barrels are often charred on the inside to add a smoky depth to the finished spirit. As the Caribbean has a hot climate, the barrels mature very quickly and therefore only a short (rarely more than 8 years) maturation process is needed (typically longer in cooler climates). Once fully mature the rums are blended with other rums of other ages until the producer achieves exactly the right flavour, colour and texture for their product. Any age statement on the bottle will always refer to the youngest rum in the blend.

MOUNT GAY Eclipse (Barbados) 37.5% **\$10**

Claiming to be the oldest rum company on the planet, this golden, delicate and light rum has a balanced flowery and creamy tang.

SAGATIBA Cachaca (Brazil) 38% **\$10**

The world's first premium Cachaça is multi-distilled to retain distinct flavour characteristics with a soft aroma that's fresh, lively and delicate. This is clear, fiery, light and peppery. Made from fresh cut sugarcane.

FLOR DE CANA 7yr Old Grande Reserve (Nicaragua) 40% **\$11**

The flagship of the range. Bold notes of dark chocolate and espresso coffee. A great Nicaraguan rum from Flor de Caña. This 7 year old is great as a mixing rum, and it makes a fantastic cocktail. It is aged in 180 litre white oak barrels, which are only used once before maturation - which gives the oak flavour more prominence

HAVANA CLUB Anejo 3 (Cuba) 40% **\$10**

The nose is crisp and fresh with notes of marzipan, citrus, allspice, ground ginger, a little lime and gentle oak. The palate is clean and rounded with notes of citrus, vanilla and oak, a little spice and lemon and a delicate nutty note.

HAVANA CLUB Anejo 7 (Cuba) 40% **\$12**

Havana Club 7yo is a full-flavoured, rich and sophisticated Cuban rum with a high degree of elegance and class. Wonderfully drinkable with vanilla and sweet spice.

APPLETON ESTATE Signature blend (Jamaica) 43% **\$10**

A true workhorse of the Rum industry. beautiful, rich and sweet - like the Lone Ranger's saddle bags. One of the best value Rums going around.

BARBANCOURT 15 Year Old (Haiti) 43% **\$16**

The nose is full and fruited with mature spices. The palate has good body, complex and is very poised. A lot going on! Focused around direct around interplay of oak, fruit and toasty spices. In finishes wrming and long.

SAILOR JERRY Spiced (Virgin Islands) 40% **\$10**

Norman 'Sailor Jerry' Collins was the father of old school tattooing and was a master craftsman whose artistry and integrity remain as timeless as the liquid that bears his signature. This rum is so heavily steeped in bar culture (particularly dives) it's hard to avoid. A Caribbean Rum is blended with local natural spices, namely Vanilla and Lime.

RUM CONT....

PYRAT XO Reserve (Anguilla) 40%

\$12

Aged and blended to perfection. Presented in individually numbered hand-crafted decanters and decorated with a Hoti (pronounced Ho-Tie) which represents the Zen patron saint and protector of fortune tellers and bartenders

KHUKRI XXX Rum (Nepal) 40%

\$12

KHUKRI Spiced Rum (Nepal) 40%

\$12

On a trek through Nepal one could find many things, Spiritual enlightenment, a greater appreciation for the fragile world we live in, or blisters, personally I'm not interested in any of that. But when Laura (one of the partners here at The Dispensary) informed me she was partaking in such a venture of course I asked for a drinkable souvenir to share with our punters back home. So with great care, and added weight to her pack our courageous hero meuled back two bottles of some fairly wild rum. Big notes of vanilla and spice makes this lot reminiscent of an artisanal cola. The spiced even more so!

BARON SAMEDI (USA) 40%

\$10

In Haitian lore, The Baron lives between worlds. His charge is to escort the dead from the world of the living to the underworld, but he is notorious for his outrageous behavior and fondness for rum. When among the living he is often seen in his top hat, with his signature drink of rum in hand, laughing while partaking in whatever unruliness strikes his fancy. The rum itself is a blend of pot distilled Jamaican and Caribbean rums infused with cinnamon, cocoa and clove.

HABITATION ST. ETIENE 2002 XO "Smokehead" (Martinique) 44%

\$19

The 'HSE' Rum Company offers a range of rums finished in ex Cognac, Whisky and Sherry casks, adopting the same principles of maturation that many innovative Single Malt Scotch whiskies have employed for decades. And as great schools of expression often turn full circle, the 2002 HSE Single Malt Finish is an 8 year old Rhum Agricole beautifully finished with 2 years in an Ian McLeod Distillers Smokehead cask previously containing Ardbeg Malt Whisky. Superb Rum.

"But why's the rum gone?"

-Captain Jack Sparrow

TEQUILA & MEZCAL

*Both tequila and mezcal are Mexican drinks made from the famed native agave plant.
The main difference between the two is appellation.*

Tequila can only be made from the pinas (hearts) of the blue agave plant in and around the town of Jalisco. Only spirit harvested in this town and its four surrounding regions can be classed as tequila.

Mezcal is made from wild varieties of the same plant (agave) in the southern region of Oaxaca.

The agave plant takes up to 12 years to reach the maturity needed to make tequila. These are big plants. The hearts, or pinas, often weigh up to 90 kilos. Tequila is made in a similar way to most spirits utilising copper stills, cutting with water and oak fermentation and ageing

Tequila is classified by the amount of agave it contains as well as the length of its ageing process. Blanco or Silver tequila is usually unaged and delivered straight to the bottle after fermentation. Therefore it is often sharp, citrusy and with a distinct agave flavour. Reposado refers to a tequila that had been aged in wood for up to a year. Anejo refers to a tequila that has spent between one to five years in oak.

Tequila is generally served in three main ways, straight up in a shot glass, in a long mixed drink, generally with orange juice or Coca-Cola and as the main ingredient in cocktails - most notably in the Margarita!

CLASE AZUL Reposado 40%

\$19

Intriguing Tequila cooked in brick ovens for around 36 Hours & fermented in open top stainless steel vats with own selected native yeast. It is double distilled and aged for 10 to 12 Months in American oak (Ex-Bourbon casks). Intense amber in colour with a nose of orange blossom, spearmint and charred wood, followed by vanilla, clove and toffee caramel. It is silky and rich in the mouth with a taste of sweet cooked agave, followed by tropical fruit cinnamon stick & vanilla-toffee caramel undertones, oak nuances on a very smooth finish. World Class Tequila.

1800 Anejo 38%

\$12

I'm pretty sure I just stock this for Mikie Van. Legend has it he has been drinking it from birth and occasionally bathes in it. It is amber in colour. It has been aged in a combination of American and French oak barrels - both charred nicely to bring through a smokey quality, missing in many other anejo's. It is powerful and spicy, with clove and nutmeg being the driving forces, and hints of vanilla, chocolate and butterscotch quietly screaming in your eardrums.

ESPLON Blanco 38%

\$10

You know that bottle you reach for when your mate busts into the bar you haven't seen for a while and you know you're about to kick your night up to 11 and whatever plans you thought you had for the next day vanish in a haze of agave laced laughter? Well for me this is it. Esplon ticks all the boxes, smooth, stylish, and dangerously easy to down.

CALLE 23 Anejo 40%

\$11

French-born biochemist Sophie Decobecq makes this in the highlands of Jalisco. Her philosophy is to make great tequila at an affordable price. In an industry first, Sophie distils each expression separately (Blanco, Reposado, Añejo) to its own special recipe using different combinations of yeasts in the fermentation. Oak aged for 16 months.

HERRADURA Silver 40%

\$12

Quite spicy and aged for a short time in white oak. Some citrus and white pepper. Great first tequila for the night. Makes a great margarita.

HERRADURA Reposado 40%

\$12

This robust and earthy tequila spend the best part of a year in oak. Quite firm and round it makes a great shot and really leaves you wanting another. This distillery has been making tequila for nearly 150 years, so you would expect them to be approaching perfection!

TEQUILA & MEZCAL CONT.....

ILLEGAL Anejo 40%

\$19

Illegal Mezcal is a beautifully balanced vintage mezcal from Tlacolula, Oaxaca Mexico. It is made by a fourth generation Mescalero and his family using 500 year old methods. This Anejo (Aged) is sprightly, with peppery notes, hints of caramel and a subtle smokiness. All that pedigree and history coupled with one of the best anti- Trump marketing campaigns I've ever seen, the culmination of which saw a billboard in times square NYC reading "Donald eres un pendejo" roughly translated to "Donald, you're an Asshole"

SOTOL POR SIEMPRE 45%

\$13

From the high desert slopes of the Sierra Madres Mountains, in the heart of Chihuahua, Mexico, comes Sotol Por Siempre. A unique spirit distilled from the hearts of wild-harvested sotol, the vital desert plant that has sustained the peoples of this region for thousands of years. An authentic spirit of Mexico, not distilled from agave, but from the native Sotol or "desert spoon" it shares characteristic similarities to its cousins in spirit, Tequila and Mezcal.

PATRON Silver 40%

\$14

The absolute pinnacle in tequila production. Considered the smoothest and finest tequila available in regular production. Not easy to source, but worth it. Classy, dry, spicy and with a good dose of citrus.

CABEZA Blanco 43%

\$14

This 100% agave tequila is distilled and bottled by the Vivanco family at their El Ranchito distillery, on the edge of their 800-acre mountainside field in Arandas. The agaves are grown without pesticides. It is a slight departure from norm at an overproof ABV of 43%. Crystal clear with a silvery blush. Perfumed and sweet opening aromas of mustard pickle, roast peppers and beeswax.

*One tequila,
two tequila,
three tequila,
floor.
-George Carlin*

VODKA

Vodka is most commonly made from potatoes, molasses, or grain – especially rye (mainly in Poland) and wheat (mainly in Russia and Sweden), although Barley is most widely used in Finland and Maize in the US.

The base ingredient is cooked and mixed with water and yeast to begin fermentation and create a “wash”. The wash is then distilled, sometimes in a pot still (a kettle-like structure), which allows the vodka to retain some of the characters of its base ingredients, but more often in a patent still. The latter uses continuous distillation, a process that purifies the spirit in one go. For over 200 years many producers have also been filtering their distillate through charcoal to remove any impurities.

Once the spirit is made it is diluted with water to adjust its alcoholic strength – usually down to 40%. If the vodka is a flavoured style, the flavouring agent is usually added at this stage

Vodka is the world’s most flexible drink. It can be drunk straight, on ice, with virtually any mixer or juice and can be used in an enormous range of different cocktails. In Russia, chilled vodka is often served with zakuski – appetizers – such as slivers of smoked fish or spicy mushrooms. But the ultimate in decadence is vodka with beluga caviar!

ZUBROWKA Bison Grass (Poland)	40%	\$10
Each bottle contains 1 blade of European Bison grass, which gives this Vodka its distinctive greeny yellow colour and floral grassy aroma. After spending several nights getting to know this vodka with some gentlemen from Champagne many years ago, I would suggest this to be “The Desert Island” Vodka. Drink it any way you like. It is always good. Green apple juice works a treat though!		
SACRED Spiced Vodka (UK)	40%	\$12
A unique small batch Vodka distilled in the London Dry “Gin” style - featuring angelica, nutmeg and Frankincense. Makes one of the better Vodka Martinis getting around.		
GREY GOOSE (France)	40%	\$12
Unusually made by blending corn, wheat, rye and barley. After distillation it is filtered through limestone and has soft fruity characters and a subtle finish. Made in the Cognac region of France and considered a darling of the Vodka world. Loved by many, the world over, it has developed a reputation as one of the world’s most premium.		
VAN GOGH Espresso (Holland)	35%	\$10
Coffee and vodka! What a combination. In the 1980’s and 1990’s we were playing with fruit and vegetables with our vodka, but it took a gifted mind to blend two of the world finest drinks together. Sheer genius. Try a shot today.		
KETEL ONE Citroen (Holland)	40%	\$10
Made by the Nolet family who have been making spirit since 1691. Lovely citrus tang - Great with soda.		
LUKSUSOWA (Poland)	40%	\$10
A ripping bang for your buck potato vodka from Poland. One stop shot shopping.		
SIPSMITH Barley Vodka (UK)	40%	\$14
Tiny batch vodka. About 200 bottles at a time are made in a copper still right in the heart of London. Textural with a soft mouth-feel. Its one of the best new vodkas to hit the market in years.		

VODKA CONT...

- LAWRENNY Saint Clair** (Tasmania) 40% **\$12**
The crystal waters of Lake Saint Clair are some of the world's most pure. Swept by wild Antarctic winds, these pristine waters meld gently into the River Derwent, and down through Lawrenny Estate. Infused with small batch distilled botanicals found on the Estate, Saint Clair Vodka is the unadulterated product of Lawrenny.
- GREY GOOSE La Poire** (France) 40% **\$11**
Cracking pear flavoured vodka. Made with true French artisan attention. Not too sweet, but with wonderful subtle musky pear spice. But still with a good hit of the hard stuff!
- SIWUCHA** (Poland) 40% **\$22**
Extremely rare & desired, Sixucha uses raw grain in with distillate giving it unique and idiosyncratic flavours. Full mouth feel with a long complex finish. Best savoured neat. As big and wide as a Mid-West American highway.
- ANCHOR Hop Head** (USA) 45% **\$14**
Wowers! A hop loaded Vodka. Unique. Brilliant and loaded with green herbal notes, hints at bongwater, elements of pine needles in a country fire and warming heat from the 45% delivery shot. This may well be my new favourite Vodka. I recommend it as a "Boilermaker" with your favourite hoppy beer.
- PRAVDA** (Poland) 40% **\$13**
Triple distilled and quadruple filtered has made this Vodka seriously close to neutral, making it the perfect mixer or cocktail base. Very smooth and very clean on the palate.

*"The relationship between a Russian and a bottle
of vodka is almost mystical"*

- Richard Owen