

PURE & SIMPLE

Vodka continues to find fans with a rise in locally made and imported options available in New Zealand...



Note: Drinksbiz has chosen not to include any Russian-produced vodkas in this year's Vodka Report following that country's invasion of Ukraine. While some brands have been associated with Russia in the past, we have clarified their origins and production within the Report where applicable.



NEW ZEALAND

42 Below

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Lion

This iconic New Zealand vodka has a floral hint in the aroma and is delicate, smooth and clean on the palate with a subtle sweetness.

Aquifer Plateau

40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$59.99
Premium Liquor Co.

This vodka from Napier distillery The National Distillery Co. is clean and crisp with the barest hint of vanilla sweetness on the nose. Slightly sweet on the palate with a full, smooth mouthfeel.

Ariki Premium Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Beverage Brothers

A triple-distilled vodka with a Pacific flavour, thanks to Rarotongan vanilla and the use of a coconut-carbon filtration system, using coconut from the Kingdom of Tonga. The New Zealand influence in this clean, smooth vodka includes manuka flower and water from the Tongariro plateau. A mellow finish.

Armada

40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$69.99
Armada Spirits

A crisp, fresh vodka with hints of crème brûlée and vanilla on the palate and a smooth finish.

Black Collar Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$59.99
Beverage Brothers

This vodka from Northland craft distiller Black Collar has a clean, fresh aroma, while on the palate it is dry with a subtle citrus note and a lingering warmth.

Blue Duck Rare Vodka

43% ABV, 750ml RRP \$89.95
Negociants

An initial burst of pepper and spice on the tongue and a brief swell of warmth is followed by clean lemon flavours. This vodka is distilled seven times, making it smooth on the palate with a polished finish.

The Bond Store Kāpiti Coast Vodka

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$38
The Bond Store

This vodka showcases fresh filtered water from the Taranui Ranges and has a smooth, creamy finish.

Broken Heart

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Giesen Group

This vodka is made with water from Arrowtown and has a fresh aroma of lemon and a hint of sweetness. Crystal clear in the glass, it's smooth, luscious and buttery on the palate with a subtle fresh lemon character. It won World's Best Pure Neutral Vodka at the World Vodka Awards in 2022.

Broken Shed

40% ABV, 1L RRP \$74.99
Federal Merchants

The co-creators of Broken Shed spent over a year refining the filtration process for this Wanaka-made vodka. It is distilled from whey and blended with New Zealand spring water. In the mouth it is clean and crisp, with a smooth finish.

Burnt Hill

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$64.99
Mineral

This vodka goes the extra mile to ensure its gluten/dairy free, environmentally- and vegan-friendly status. It uses pure sugarcane sourced sustainably as its base, and this is distilled eight times in a column reflux still. Fresh New Zealand spring water is added and the vodka is then passed through a crushed volcanic rock filter. It has a hint of sweetness in the aroma and is creamy on the palate with balanced sweetness and minerality. A soft finish.



Coast Road Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$49.99
Premium Liquor Co.

Hailing from the Bay of Plenty, this vodka is smooth, clean, sweet and well-rounded, with subtle liquorice and vanilla notes. Crisp and refreshing, it finishes extremely smooth.

Coast Road Pink – Berry and Rhubarb Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$49.99
Premium Liquor Co.

A delicate blend of natural berry and rhubarb flavours give a lusciously fruity character to this crisp vodka.

Copperhead Road Pure Heart Vodka

42% ABV, 1L RRP \$71.99
Copperhead Road

Brewed and aged at Copperhead Road’s distillery in Rotorua, this vodka has a rich, complex aroma with a hint of sweetness. It is balanced on the palate, with a complex savoury character. Rounded and mouth-filling with a lingering finish.

Dunedin Craft Distillers Cacao Vodka

40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$88
Dunedin Craft Distillers

This vodka is a deep, dark chocolate surprise – made from cacao husks and nibs, macerated in Dunedin Craft Distillers’ bread-based spirits before final distillation. There’s no sweetness, just the pure cacao flavour in a smooth and crystal clear spirit. The aroma is full of rich, earthy cacao and the vodka is smooth on the palate. It is rounded and lush with cacao flavour that lingers delicately on the finish.

Good Times Citrus Vodka

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$43.99
Premium Liquor Co.

A new release vodka full of citrus flavour thanks to an infusion of lemon, lime, yuzu, and grapefruit.

Good Times Passion & Pineapple Vodka

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$43.99
Premium Liquor Co.

Tropical fruit flavour is at the fore of this vodka with its burst of juicy pineapple and tart passionfruit.

Good Times Raspberry Vodka

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$43.99
Premium Liquor Co.

A fresh vodka infused with the delicate sweetness of raspberry.

Karven Starka Vodka

38% ABV, 700ml RRP \$80, 50ml RRP \$7
Karven

A contemporary take on a barrel-aged vodka that originated in Eastern Europe. The grain vodka is rested in virgin American oak barrels for six to eight weeks and infused with manuka honey and a selection of botanicals, giving it its amber hue. Aromas of oak and a creamy palate full of vanilla and honey, with a blend of wood and spice on the finish. Ideal as a sipping vodka.

Karven Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$75, 50ml RRP \$7
Karven

A contemporary vodka with a classic, rich vodka nose and delicate floral note. Intense and smooth on the palate with a velvety mouthfeel.

Kiwi Spirit JiūJiū Blue Label Vodka

40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$79.99
Kiwi Spirit Distillery

This vodka from Golden Bay’s Kiwi Spirit Distillery is all about luck. The Chinese name ‘JiūJiū’ is a reference to “be lucky and make nine” from the ancient Chinese game now known as Baccarat, with nine being the best one can achieve. The vodka also has 22.5 carat gold leaf ‘8’ and ‘9’ shapes floating in the vodka as a further reference to good luck and success. It’s a triple distilled charcoal filtered vodka that uses water from one of the aquifers that feed Golden Bay’s renowned Te Waikoropupū Springs. It’s fresh and clean on the nose, and smooth and soft on the palate with a very slight hint of citrus and a long finish. Note: there’s a little button underneath the bottle that emits a blue light in three different modes when pressed, to light the bottle up for a special effect.

Kiwi Spirit JiūJiū Red Label Vodka

50% ABV, 750ml RRP \$79.99
Kiwi Spirit Distillery

This is a high proof version (50% ABV) of its sibling vodka, without the gold leaf addition. It’s a rich, elegant vodka with a hint of savoury spice on the nose. Smooth and mouthfilling with a lingering finish. At 50% ABV it’s ideal for cocktails and mixed drinks. Note: Like the JiūJiū Blue Label, you can light this bottle up with a press of the button underneath as well.

Kiwi Spirit Premium Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Kiwi Spirit Distillery

This small batch distilled vodka is a smooth, elegant spirit from Kiwi Spirit Distillery in Golden Bay and also uses water drawn from an aquifer under the distillery that feeds Te Waikoropupū Springs.

Koakoa Coffee Vodka with L’Affare

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$69
The Bond Store

The distillers at The Bond Store on the Kapiti Coast teamed up with fellow Wellingtonians and premium coffee roasters L’affare to create this coffee vodka. It combines Gusto Fair Trade Organic coffee and the award-winning Koakoa Vodka to create a vodka with rich notes of Black Forest chocolate and red plum, and a smooth cream finish.

Peaked Organic Chilli Vodka

46% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Peaked Distillery

This chilli vodka packs a punch, with flavours of red birds-eye chilli, and hints of fresh herb and gooseberry. A pale yellow hue, there’s a hint of savoury chilli in the aroma before it hits the palate and fills the mouth with a delicious chilli heat that lingers.

Peaked Organic Pinot Noir Vodka

41% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Peaked Distillery

This vodka even looks like an aged Pinot in the glass. It has aromas of sweet red fruit with a raisiny undertone that leads to a palate rich and sweet with dried fruit character.

Peaked Organic Vodka

42% ABV, 700ml RRP \$74.99
Peaked Distillery

With a gentle herbal aroma and a hint of flint, this vodka is soft and balanced on the palate; creamy with a touch of sweetness.

Reefton Wild Rain Vodka

43% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
EuroVintage

A smooth clean vodka that makes use of the abundant West Coast rain that filters its way down the Southern Alps. Crisp and pure on the palate. Awarded the Trophy for ‘Best Overall Vodka’ at the NZ Spirits Awards 2021.

Vodka – the basics

UNFLAVOURED VODKA is essentially alcohol (ethanol) blended with water, meaning the source of the water and the base of the alcohol are integral to creating a superior vodka.

- The word ‘vodka’ is derived from the Slavic ‘voda’ (‘little water’)
- The alcohol used in vodka is made traditionally from fermented grain (such as rye or wheat) or potatoes
- The alcohol is distilled, usually more than once (e.g. in triple-distilled vodkas), to modify flavour and increase clarity
- Repeated distillation also increases the ethanol level (sometimes up to 96%), meaning water is usually required to dilute the vodka back to its 40% ABV
- Some vodka producers will also filter the distilled alcohol through activated carbon or similar, to remove any impurities or trace substances for a ‘cleaner’ taste.



‘the reid’ Single Malt Vodka

44% ABV, 750ml RRP \$112
Cardrona Distillery

Presented in a striking droplet-shaped bottle, this vodka is named for three of the Cardrona Distillery founders. It is made from a malted barley spirit base and twice distilled before it is blended with Cardrona alpine water. A rich, full-bodied vodka with a distinctive aroma of biscuit and banana on the nose. (The team at Cardrona refer to its ‘banoffee pie’ character). This continues on the palate with a slight banana sweetness, a hint of caramel and a warming finish. Cardrona also releases an annual ‘Bra Fence Edition’ for breast cancer fundraising.

Scapegrace Vodka

40.6% ABV, 700ml RRP \$74.99
Hancocks

This vodka from award-winning distillers Scapegrace is bright and pure on the nose with a velvety palate that is balanced with notes of dry wheat and apple. The finish is creamy and viscous with a hint of floral sweetness.

Scapegrace Uncommon Japanese Umeshu Plum Vodka

41.6% ABV, 700ml RRP \$69.99
Scapegrace Distilling

This is one of two new varietals released as part of Scapegrace’s limited edition Uncommon releases, which hero the stories of those producing boutique ingredients. This one showcases Japanese umeshu plum, from Horowhenua growers Neville and Junko Chun. The vodka is full of the slightly sour, juicy plum notes with a tart finish. There are just 2,500 bottles in each release, with each one individually numbered.

Scapegrace Uncommon Japanese Yuzu Lemon Vodka

41.6% ABV, 700ml RRP \$69.99
Scapegrace Distilling

This is the second varietal in Scapegrace’s latest Uncommon release and heroes yuzu lemon, as grown by Neville and Junko Chun in Horowhenua. The vodka has fresh green notes, bright floral aromas and a savoury umami finish.

STIL

37.2% ABV, 1L RRP \$41.99
Premium Liquor Co.

Triple distilled and carbon filtered, this vodka is smooth, rich and warm on the palate.

Vesta 45

45% ABV, 200ml RRP \$55
Juno

A limited-edition vodka, barrel-aged in Tasmanian oak. Full-bodied and intense, the vodka is smooth with velvety coffee, decadent chocolate and dark oak notes.

Vesta Coffee Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$88
Juno

This batch-distilled vodka is made in collaboration with Ozone Coffee Roastery and has notes of blackberry, raspberry and dark chocolate, drawn from the high quality natural-process Ethiopian coffee beans.

Vesta Extra Fine Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$80
Juno

A smooth, neutral creamy vodka from Taranaki distillery House of Juno. An excellent base for premium cocktails.

The Vicar’s Son Five Times Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$139 (refill RRP \$105)
The Vicar’s Son

This small batch vodka is distilled five times instead of the usual four – equating to an extra 12 hours of distillation to enhance the smoothness before the vodka is cut with Antipodes water.



The Vicar’s Son Pure Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$134 (refill RRP \$105)
The Vicar’s Son

This tiny-batch vodka is made from Gladfield malted barley and is quadruple distilled, unfiltered and cut with Antipodes water. It has a clean aroma with a slightly sweet banana character and a hint of marzipan. Light and refreshing on the palate with a hint of sweetness and a lingering warmth at the finish.

The Vicar’s Son Juniper Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$109 (refill RRP \$85)
The Vicar’s Son

Is it a gin? Is it a vodka? This vodka infuses The Vicar’s Son Vodka with juniper, giving it a robust juniper aroma. But this ebbs a little in the mouth, where the vodka is luscious, gentle and smooth.

The Vicar’s Son Coffee Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$109 (refill RRP \$85)
The Vicar’s Son

A vapour-infused extraction of coarsely ground coffee beans is distilled with Vicar’s Son Vodka to create this coffee vodka that’s ideal for an espresso martini.

White Sheep Co. Sheep Milk Vodka

40% ABV, 500ml RRP \$59.99
Beverage Brothers

Fermenting sheeps’ milk for 12 days using special yeasts prior to distillation in a traditional copper still creates this smooth, unique tasting vodka, which has plenty of body and delicate sheep milk notes. Ideal for sipping.

AUSTRALIA

Archie Rose Native Botanical Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$69.99
Archie Rose

This vodka from Sydney craft distiller Archie Rose is infused with native lemon-scented gum, native sunrise lime, Australian peach, and Roman chamomile. Aromas of candied lime peel, peach iced tea, elderflower, pink marshmallow and jasmine lead to a palate of panettone, sweet lemon, ripe peach and mint, rounded out by a burst of sherbet and candied orange peel.

Manly Spirits Botanical Vodka

41.6% ABV, 700ml RRP \$79.99
Thirsty Camel

This vodka is distilled with sustainably foraged Australian native marine botanicals, such as sea parsley and kelp, which create savoury sea air aromas and gentle umami flavours on the palate. A semi-sweet, gentle, peppery style with vibrancy and a crisp, citrusy finish.

JAPAN

Haku Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$56.99
Beam Suntory

A Japanese craft vodka made using 100% Japanese white rice and bamboo filtration. Haku has a soft aroma with a hint of rice sweetness, a rich complex taste and a smooth finish. Awarded Gold at the NZ Spirits Awards 2021.

UNITED KINGDOM

Chapel Down Vodka

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$89.99
Glengarry Spirits

Based in Kent, Chapel Down makes its vodka from distilled Chardonnay grapes. Light citrus and floral aromas lead to a smooth, creamy palate and a hint of aniseed on the finish.

IRELAND

Drumshanbo Sausage Tree Vodka

43% ABV, 700ml RRP \$69.99
Premium Liquor Co.

This rather unique vodka uses Irish grain vodka and marries the fruit of the African ‘Sausage Tree’ (Kigelia Africana) with Irish nettles to create a smooth, subtly fruity spirit.

Scapegrace Uncommon vodka heroes the stories of those producing boutique ingredients, such as the two new Japanese Umeshu Plum and Yuzu Lemon releases.



FINLAND

Finlandia
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$34.99, 1L RRP \$39.99
Hancocks

Finlandia is made using barley grown in the country’s north, where it ripens during the Finnish summer – a time when the sun doesn’t set for 72 days, known as the ‘Midnight Sun’. After distillation it is blended with glacial spring water. Finlandia has a dry, light and smooth taste with a clean finish. Also available in Cranberry, Mango, Lime, and Grapefruit variants.

ICELAND

Reyka
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$59.99
Federal Merchants

This vodka from Iceland’s first vodka distillery uses arctic spring water, lava rock filtration and a Carter Head still to create a smooth and delicately sweet spirit. Aromas of vanilla and citrus lead to a smooth, rounded palate with a classic grain profile and a hint of wild fruit on the finish.

Absolut Watermelon is the latest New Zealand release in the popular range made in Sweden.

FRANCE

Grey Goose
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$71.99
Lion

A premium vodka made from winter wheat grown in Picardy and spring water from the Cognac region. It has a gentle floral aroma and is smooth on the palate with a slight sweetness, a hint of almond and a lingering finish.

Pinnacle Pure
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$37.99
Beam Suntory

Made in France’s Cognac region, Pinnacle Pure uses winter wheat and spring water. It is distilled five times, giving it a fresh aroma, a clean, pure taste and a soft and slightly floral finish.

Tried and True
44% ABV, 700ml RRP \$49.99
Proof & Co

This vodka designed especially for on-premise is distilled from soft winter wheat grown and milled in France, then proofed down to a ‘cocktail appropriate’ 44% ABV using RO (reverse osmosis) demineralised well water from the Cognac region. Described as an “authentic, neutral vodka that barfolk can rely on”.

ITALY

Roberto Cavalli
40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$99
Thirsty Camel

The vodka of fashion designer Roberto Cavalli is described as the first Italian super-premium vodka. It is crisp and smooth with a hint of lemon zest and a creamy finish.

SWEDEN

Absolut Vodka
40% ABV 1L RRP \$48.99
Pernod Ricard

Arguably one of the best known and most distinctively packaged vodkas on the market. There is a wide range of flavours available within the Absolut range but the first was Absolut Original, which has a clean, rich flavour. It’s smooth and mellow with a distinct grain character and a hint of dried fruit.

Absolut Watermelon
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$41.99
Pernod Ricard

The latest release in the Absolut range in New Zealand, Absolut Watermelon has the fresh sweetness of watermelon with no added sugar. The other variants available in New Zealand are: Apeach, Citron, Grapefruit, Lime, Mango. Passionfruit, Pears, Raspberri and Vanilia.

BELARUS

Vodka USSR
40% ABV, 500ml RRP \$19.99
Q Liquid

This Belarusian vodka has a clean, neutral aroma and is smooth on the palate with a fresh flavour and a lasting warmth on the finish.

LATVIA

elit
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$84.99
Tickety-Boo

The ultra-premium vodka from Stoli Group (makers of the Stoli range). First created in 2003, elit uses single-source grain. First filtered through quartz sand and charcoal, it then goes through a signature freeze-filtration process at -18°C to remove any trace of impurities. It has exceptional clarity and a silken, rolling mouthfeel. Elit is one of the highest-rated white spirits in the world, with a platinum score of 97 points from the Beverage Tasting Institute.

Stoli
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$36.99, 1L RRP \$49.99
Tickety-Boo

This famous global brand is synonymous with vodka. Stoli Group controls every aspect of making its vodka: from the selection of the wheat and rye grains, to planting, harvesting, distillation and bottling. It has a neutral aroma and is slightly sweet on the palate with a clean finish.

Stoli Gluten-Free
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

This vodka is made from gluten-free corn and buckwheat. It has a light aroma with a soft, smooth mouthfeel and a clean finish.

elit is the ultra-premium vodka from Stoli Group (makers of the Stoli range) and has exceptional clarity and a silken, rolling mouthfeel.

Stoli Gold
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$54.99
Tickety-Boo

A more premium experience of the original Stoli, Stoli Gold is filtered through coils of gold thread. This amplifies the depth of the vodka and enhances the soft mouthfeel.

Stoli Citros
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

Delicately aromatic, with clear scents of sweet lemon at the start, building to a more intense blast of lime. The palate has subtle, zesty lemon with floral touches on the finish.

Stoli Cucumber
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

Clean and crisp on the palate, full of savoury cucumber flavour and with a smooth finish.

Stoli Lime
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

A smooth and balanced vodka, with an aroma of freshly squeezed limes. A zesty and natural tasting lime vodka, perfect in a Moscow Mule.

Stoli Orange
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

A light, floral aroma of orange zest and essential oils is balanced by richer elements of orange liqueur and marmalade. On the palate there is orange cream and hints of dark chocolate along with tangerine, mandarin and kumquat, and a lingering fresh zesty note of lemon.

Stoli Salted Caramel
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

One of the world’s most popular flavours comes to vodka. Stoli Salted Caramel offers a balance of sweet and savoury with caramelised sugar and soft English toffee, balanced with a light saltiness that draws out the caramel.

Stoli Vanilla
37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Tickety-Boo

This vodka has aromas of vanilla pod, crème anglaise, and chocolate, with undertones of toasted buttery grain, but without any heavy cloying sweetness. A creamy sweetness on the palate, but light and balanced with cocoa powder, white pepper and sweet spicy notes.





LITHUANIA

Stumbras Vodka Centenary

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$39.99
Q Liquid

Distinct aromas of wheat grain and a rich, mouth flavour with notes of roasted nuts and a lingering finish. A stalk of wheat is placed in each bottle to enhance the flavour.

POLAND

Pravda

40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$59.99
Premium Liquor Co.

This rye-based Polish vodka uses five-step distillation, water from springs deep within the Carpathian Mountains and charcoal filtration. It has a rich aroma and is crisp and clean on the palate with a rounded mouthfeel.

Pravda Coconut

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$59.99
Premium Liquor Co.

An aroma of fresh coconut continues on the palate with smooth and rounded coconut flavour; sweet but not cloying. Ideal for tropical-inspired cocktails.

Pravda Espresso

37.5% ABV, 700ml RRP \$59.99
Premium Liquor Co.

An almost chewy aroma of chocolate and coffee leads to a sweet palate balanced by a deep coffee flavour with a chocolate note. Rich and mouthfilling.

Vodka Brands

42 Below

Founded by Kiwi Geoff Ross in 1999, this New Zealand vodka brand became a cult hit and was sold to Bacardi in 2006. The name refers to it being made on the 42nd parallel (i.e. at a latitude of 42 degrees below the equator).

Absolut

Arguably one of the most recognisable vodkas in the world, Absolut as it is known today has been around since 1979 but traces its origins to the late 1800s. This Swedish vodka was first made in 1879 by Lars Olsson Smith (it is his picture on the bottle) in the southern Swedish village of Åhus. The brand is now owned by Pernod Ricard, who bought it from the Swedish state in 2008. Absolut is still produced near Åhus and every ingredient is sourced from within a 100km radius of the village.

Aquifer

A vodka from The National Distillery Company in Napier, which also has a wide range of gins. The company is based in the historic Art Nouveau building formerly known as The National Tobacco Company in Ahuriri.

Archie Rose

Founded in 2014 and located in Sydney, Archie Rose Distilling Co. produces a range of whiskies, gins, vodkas and rums, as well as one-off collaborations, limited releases and spirits experiences.

Ariki

New Zealand company Ariki takes its name from the Māori word for a paramount chief or leader, also known on other islands of Polynesia as Ari'i (Tahiti) and Ali'i (Samoa, Hawaii). The company says it refers to its position as the Pacific region's first ultra-premium spirits brand. Ariki produces gin and vodka, both using Rarotongan vanilla and Tongan coconut, and supports organic growers in Polynesia.

Armada Spirits

One of New Zealand's newer distilleries, Armada Spirits is based at Papamoa Beach in the Bay of Plenty. Its debut vodka launched in late 2020 and there are plans to release gin and rum soon too.

Black Collar Distillery

This Northland distillery launched in 2017 and produces gin, rum and vodka.

Blue Duck Vodka

Part of the spirits range from New Zealand company Simply Pure, which also makes Black Robin Rare Gin. Simply Pure is a champion of 'sustainable luxury' and ethical consumption and donates a percentage of profits from the sale of its products to Forest & Bird.

The Bond Store

Based on the Kāpiti Coast, The Bond Store is a family business specialising in spirits and liqueurs, also under the Koakoa brand. Its range includes gin, limoncello and vodka.

Broken Heart

This New Zealand brand launched several years ago with a gin by Master Distiller Joerg Henkenhaf, following the death of the close friend and fellow Master Distiller with whom he had first created it. Both from Germany, the pair wanted to create a gin that reflected their new homeland. Henkenhaf has since expanded the range to include new gin expressions, as well as the vodka and a spiced rum.

Broken Shed

Launched in 2010, Broken Shed Vodka was one of the earlier entrants to the New Zealand craft spirits scene and is now distributed in the US too. It's named for a rundown shed on the shores of Lake Wanaka, where two friends first came up with the recipe and spent over a year refining the filtration process. The vodka is still made in Wanaka, but the shed is now used for tastings and events.

Burnt Hill

A New Zealand distillery that produces a dairy- and gluten-free vodka made from sustainably sourced sugarcane and then blended through volcanic rock.

Cardrona Distillery

After opening in 2015, Cardrona Distillery in the Cardrona Valley has quickly made a name for itself in artisan spirits. Its range comprises vodka, gin, whiskies and limited edition liqueurs.

Chapel Down

Based in Kent, England, Chapel Down is a maker of wines, beers, ciders and spirits.

Coast Road

A vodka brand made in the Bay of Plenty.

Copperhead Road Distillery

A Rotorua-based distillery where Chief Distiller Rod Roos makes their international-award-winning Pure Heart Vodka.

Crystal Head Vodka

A vodka made on the island of St Johns, off the Canadian coast. Its name refers to the fact it is filtered through layers of semi-precious crystals known as 'Herkimer diamonds', while its distinctive bottle is inspired by a legend that says the native tribes of the Americas possess 13 crystal skulls, said to be project positive energy and enlightenment. It was created in 2007 by actor Dan Aykroyd (of *Ghostbusters* fame) and artist John Alexander.

Dunedin Craft Distillers

This distillery launched in 2020 as a small scale, sustainable, circular economy distillery. Founders Jenny McDonald and Sue Stockwell make gin and vodka from a base spirit that they make from scratch, using surplus bread as a carbohydrate source. It is the only distillery in New Zealand to produce botanical spirits from surplus bakery products that would otherwise go to landfill.

Drumshanbo

An Irish brand that is part of The Shed Distillery in Drumshanbo, County Leitrim in rural northwest Ireland.

Elit

The super-premium offering from Stoli Group. Elit was first created in 2003 and is one of the world's highest rated white spirits, with a platinum score of 97 points from the Beverage Tasting Institute. It uses a signature freeze-filtration process to remove any trace of impurities.

Finlandia

The Finlandia brand was established in 1970 by Finland's state-owned alcoholic beverage company Alko. It is now owned by Brown-Forman. Finlandia vodka is distilled in the village of Koskenkorva in Finland's west, and then blended with glacial water in the village of Rajamäki, north of Helsinki.

Good Times

A new New Zealand vodka brand.

Gorilochka

A Ukrainian vodka brand owned by Petrus-Alco, one of Ukraine's leading alcohol companies.

Grey Goose

A French luxury vodka brand developed in the mid-90s and now owned by Bacardi. Grey Goose is made in France from locally grown wheat and spring water and its cellar master is Francois Thibault, a former cognac producer. The Grey Goose bottle features an illustration of French geese in flight.

Haku

The premium Japanese craft vodka brand from Japan's House of Suntory.

JiūJiū

A New Zealand vodka made in Golden Bay by Kiwi Spirit Distillery. Its Chinese name 'JiuJiu' is a reference to "be lucky and make nine" from the ancient Chinese game now known as Baccarat, with nine being the best one can achieve.

Karven

New Zealand craft distillers Karven launched in late 2016 and produce a range of small-batch spirits in Puhoi, north of Auckland. The range includes gin, vodka, vermouth, absinthe and amaro.

Kiwi Spirit Distillery

A distillery based in Golden Bay, producing a range of whisky, gin, vodka, and liqueurs.

Koakoa

A sister brand to The Bond Store from Kāpiti Coast.

Manly Spirits Co.

Located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, this distillery has built a reputation as Australia's coastal craft spirits producer, using locally sourced marine and coastal foraged botanicals.

Peaked Distillery

A small Queenstown craft distillery using only organic and locally foraged ingredients to make vodka and liqueur.

Pinnacle

A French brand owned by Beam Suntory. Pinnacle Vodka is made from French wheat and distilled in France.

Pravda

Pravda vodka has been produced in southern Poland's Carpathian mountain district since 1743 and today is made under the guidance of sixth generation master distiller Aleksandra Kulak. The gem on the bottle echoes those worn by the mayor of each village in the region, while the bottle shape refers to the fact the nobles of the time called it the 'champagne' of vodkas.

Reefton Distilling Co.

This West Coast distillery launched in late 2018 and was founded by Reefton local Patsy Bass. It uses locally foraged botanicals and produces a range of gins, as well as vodka, whisky and liqueurs.

Reyka

This Icelandic vodka brand owned by William Grant & Sons launched in 2005, after the company built what was believed to be Iceland's first vodka distillery in Borgarnes, 100km north of the capital Reykjavik. It uses a Carter Head still (as does its sibling brand Hendrick's Gin), as well as locally sourced arctic water and lava rock filtration.

Roberto Cavalli

The vodka brand of Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli. Cavalli developed the vodka in collaboration with his son Tommaso with the aim of creating the first super-premium Italian vodka.

Scapegrace

This New Zealand distillery has been internationally awarded for its gins and launched its first vodka in mid-2020.

SKYY

Launched in 1992, SKYY was America's first quadruple distilled and triple filtered premium vodka. It was bought by Campari Group (now Gruppo Campari) in 2009.

Smirnoff

Smirnoff had its beginnings in Russia, but after Vladimir Smirnoff fled during the 1917 Revolution, he re-established the brand in Europe. Smirnoff production was then shifted to the USA, where it has been based since 1934. It is owned by British company Diageo.

Soplica

One of Poland's oldest vodka brands, having first been produced in 1891.

Stumbras

One of the largest producers of distilled beverages in the Baltic States. Based in Lithuania, it was established in 1906 and exports its products to around 30 countries.

Status

A Ukranian vodka brand made at the Zlatagor Distillery, which is more than 100 years old, in Zolotonosha in central Ukraine. Owned by Petrus-Alco, one of Ukraine's leading alcohol companies.

Stoli

One of the world's best-known vodka brands. Formerly known as 'Stolichnaya' (the Russian adjective for a capital city) Stoli's production has in fact been based in Latvia for more than 20 years. In March 2022, its parent company Stoli Group announced that it would rebrand to 'Stoli' following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and would engage exclusively with Slovakian sources to ensure 100% non-Russian alpha-grade spirit for its production.

Tito's Handmade Vodka

Founder and master distiller Bert 'Tito' Beveridge created the recipe for his now world-famous vodka when he opened the first legal micro-distillery in Austin, Texas in 1995. He sold his first case of vodka in 1997 and Tito's is now one of the fastest-growing spirits brands in the world.

Tried and True

An independent vodka brand produced in France and bottled in Singapore. It was developed by Singapore-based boutique spirits collective Proof & Company.

The Vicar's Son

A New Zealand spirits brand that launched in 2020. Its range comprises gin and vodka made in Auckland's Point Chevalier and it's believed to be possibly the world's smallest commercial distillery, as each batch comprises of a maximum of nine bottles.

Vesta

The vodka brand of Taranaki craft distillers Begin Distilling, which also produces Juno Gin.

Vodka USSR

An original Belarusian vodka made at the Belalco Distillery in the city of Brest in southwest Belarus.

White Sheep Co.

New Zealand sheep's milk is the basis for the gin, vodka and cream liqueur made by White Sheep Co, which was founded by Sam Brown in early 2019.

Żubrówka

A Polish vodka that takes its name from the Russian for 'bison grass'. Żubrówka's taste derives from extracts of this rare Bison grass. Each bottle contains a blade of the grass, which has been hand-picked in the Białowieża Forest, one of the last and largest parts of a primeval forest that once stretched across the European Plain and is now home to around 800 European bison.



Soplica Classic
40% ABV, 500ml RRP \$35
Q Liquid

A crisp, dry vodka, Soplica is one of the most recognised vodka brands in Poland, having been first produced there in 1891.

Żubrówka
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$49.99
Beam Suntory

Żubrówka’s flavour is derived from extracts of rare Bison grass, harvested from the ancient Białowieża Forest. Each bottle also contains a hand-picked blade of the grass. The vodka has a green, grassy aroma that develops in flavour on the palate, alongside a peppery kick and a lingering hint of spice.

Tito’s Handmade Vodka was awarded Double Gold at the NZ Spirits Awards 2021.

UKRAINE

Vodka Gorilochka Wheat
40% ABV, 500ml RRP \$23.99
Q Liquid

A traditional Ukrainian vodka made using artesian water and "Lux" class premium grain alcohol, it is light and soft on the palate.

Vodka Status Platinum
40% ABV, 500ml RRP \$27.99
Q Liquid

This vodka uses high-quality grain alcohol of the "Lux" class, five-fold filtration, and proprietary cold softening technology to create a crisp, classic vodka.

CANADA

Crystal Head Vodka
40% ABV, 700ml RRP \$99
Hancocks

This vodka is made from grain spirit that is quadruple distilled and then filtered seven times, three of those through layers of semi-precious crystals known as ‘Herkimer diamonds, before it is blended with glacial water from Newfoundland. Crystal Head has a smooth and creamy mouthfeel, a hint of sweetness on the palate and finishes clean and dry.

USA

SKYY
37.5% ABV, 1L RRP \$39.99
Thirsty Camel

SKYY is made using quadruple column distillation followed by a triple filtration process using California limestone. It has a citrusy aroma, while on the palate it is dry and crisp with a creamy mouthfeel and a peppery finish.

Smirnoff
40% ABV, 1L RRP \$41.99
Lion

Based in America since 1934, this classic triple-distilled vodka is smooth, clean and fresh on the palate with a lasting warmth on the finish.

Tito’s Handmade Vodka
40% ABV, 750ml RRP \$59.99
Hancocks

This naturally gluten-free vodka is made from distilled corn. Creator Bert ‘Tito’ Beveridge uses the same pot still methods applied to fine single malt scotches and French cognacs. Clean and smooth, the vodka has a hint of sweetness on the nose and is rich and creamy on the palate. Awarded Double Gold at the NZ Spirits Awards 2021.

