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cheers.org.nz



Victoria Wells
Editor – Drinksbiz
victoria@drinksbiz.co.nz

Hello from the other side

AS I write this, New Zealand has just moved to Alert Level 1.

In the time since Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's announcement, there's been a lot of talk in the media about how this shift heralds a return to 'normal'.

Except that it doesn't.

Not really. Life has changed too much since COVID-19 arrived on our shores for things to be 'normal'.

Everybody has been changed by this pandemic in some way – every industry, every business, every family. What hasn't changed, though, is New Zealanders' seemingly innate ability to adapt to a situation, to see a way through and to lend a hand to others who might be struggling.

The drinks industry has been a perfect example of this over the past couple of months. Whether it was switching from making spirits to manufacturing sanitiser, or drumming up business with online tastings, or even breweries donating beer to essential workers, there was no shortage of stories from an industry that, like so many others, had been handed lemons and was intent on making the best damn lemonade money could buy (even if it was via click and collect).

There was no shortage of stories from an industry that had been handed lemons and was intent on making the best damn lemonade money could buy.

One positive – and it was a big one – to come out of the strict Level 4 lockdown was that Kiwis definitely realised how much they missed each other. When you couldn't meet a mate for a beer after work, get the girls together for cocktails, or celebrate a family birthday with a dinner out, you suddenly realised how much in life you took for granted.

It's true that you don't know what you've got till it's gone. New Zealand had a taste of that for several weeks and we can only hope that the nation's realisation that we want to be together, to have the choice to celebrate and to raise a glass continues.

There will be more challenges to come – we may be going back to 'normal' but until our borders re-open, we've just got each other.

So whether you're making it, distributing it, marketing it, serving it or selling it (or all of those) then hang in there, we'll get through this.

And on the bright side, at least we don't have to wash our groceries any more.

Enjoy the issue,
Victoria

My picks

2019 Fat & Sassy Chardonnay
A creamy, full-bodied Chardonnay from esteemed winemaker Tony Bish. Even the cheery yellow packaging is the perfect antidote to everything at the moment.

Parrotdog Sheree Feijoa Sour
The smell of feijoas takes me straight back to childhood, over at the neighbour's place where we'd shake feijoas off the tree and sit in the grass to eat them. This beer is like the grown-up version of that happy place.

Thomson Whisky 'Local Folk & Smoke' Single Cask Single Malt
Because if ever there was a time to support local, then this is it. New Zealand distillery Thomson created this whisky in honour of everybody involved in its creation: from the barley growers to the local retailer. Limited stocks. Move quickly.



JUNE/JULY 2020



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Out & About

Bollinger on centre court

Negociants NZ held its popular annual Champagne Bollinger Trade Tennis Tournament at Auckland's Pompallier Tennis Club earlier this year, with the central city's hospo scene well-represented. Simon Mackenzie and Paul Jobin from Point Wines took the top prize.



Kendall Irvine & Ali Lawlor from Generator


Patrick Baxter, Bailey Mullins, Scott van Dooren and George Dennigan from Soul Bar & Restaurant


Simon Mackenzie & Paul Jobin – Winners from Point Wines with Danielle Grevers from Negociants NZ


Al Brown – Depot






Justin Taylor



Chilling with Taylors wines

South Australian winery Taylors took to the ice back in February to highlight the temperature sensors on its Taylors Estate and Promised Land wine ranges. Guests rugged up for a dinner with matched wines held at the Paradice Ice Rink in Auckland's Botany, complete with an ice skating performance.

Great outdoors with Cinema Peroni

Peroni's outdoor cinema event, Cinema Peroni, returned to Auckland in March for its fifth and biggest year yet. For the first time, tickets were available to purchase to the previously invite-only event held at Britomart's Takutai Square. Attendees enjoyed Peroni and Aperitivo on arrival, followed by a three course meal by Amano served to their seats during a screening of *Happy As Lazzaro*, selected by partner Rialto Channel.









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027 405 7716 / paul@superliquor.co.nz

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027 445 0535 / pj@superliquor.co.nz

Diary Dates and Updates

Many national and international events have been either cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. Below are the rescheduled events or updates that we have been made aware of.

Please note, some dates may still be fluid, so check event websites for the latest details.

OCTOBER

Thursday 1 – Saturday 31 October

Visa Wellington On A Plate

The capital's biggest foodie event has moved to October. October 1-11 will be dedicated to 'Dine Wellington', while October 21-31 will be dedicated to 'Garage Project presents Burger Wellington'. 'Cocktail Wellington' and Festival events will run for the full month. More updates will be available on the website.

visawoap.com

Friday 30 October – Sunday 1 November

The Food Show – Wellington

The country's biggest consumer food and beverage event will be held over three days at Sky Stadium. For exhibitor inquiries contact XPO Exhibitions (hub.xpo.co.nz).

foodshow.co.nz

NOVEMBER

Friday 20 – Saturday 21 November

Beervana – Wellington

Beerlovers will descend on Sky Stadium in the capital for two days of the best of New Zealand beer.

beervana.co.nz

Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 November

The Food Show – Auckland

The country's biggest consumer food and beverage event returns to Auckland's ASB Showgrounds for four days in November. For exhibitor inquiries contact XPO Exhibitions (hub.xpo.co.nz).

foodshow.co.nz

NZ UPDATES

Brewers Guild Awards and BREWNZ – cancelled for 2020

The Guild Awards and BREWNZ conference will now be held in Auckland in 2021 with dates TBC.

brewersguild.org.nz

Highball – cancelled for 2020

New Zealand's new cocktail and spirits festival in Wellington has been cancelled for 2020 with organisers saying they aim to host the event in the near future.

highball.co.nz

NZ Spirits Awards – postponed

Organisers are currently looking at alternative dates later in 2020.

spiritsawardsnz.nz

New Zealand Wine Sommit™ – postponed

The annual scholarship run by New Zealand Winegrowers, available to international and domestic sommeliers, was due to take place in Gisborne in February 2021. Applications are now expected to open early to mid 2021, for a Sommit™ experience in 2022. Applications already submitted will be considered for the 2021 intake, and applicants contacted to resubmit their applications.

nzwine.com/sommit



Pinot Noir NZ – rescheduled for 2022

Organisers of Pinor Noir NZ have announced new dates for the country's most internationally-recognised wine event. The three-day celebration will now take place in Christchurch from 15 – 17 February 2022 (postponed from February 2021).
Tickets for Pinot Noir NZ 2022 will go on sale in February 2021.

pinotnz.co.nz

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

ProWein 2020 – postponed to 2021

The major international trade fair for wines and spirits has been rescheduled to 21-23 March 2021 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

prowein.com

International Wine Challenge (IWC) judging – postponed to November 2020

The IWC has moves its judging process from April 2020 to November 2020, with results to be published just before the Christmas trading period. All existing entries will be transferred automatically to the new judging dates. IWC China will remain open and will be judged in June as planned.

internationalwinechallenge.com

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The Real Review

The Real Review has rated Tohu Awatere Valley sauvignon blanc 2019, as the number one Marlborough 2019 sauvignon blanc.

"A tangy sauvignon blanc with a strong Awatere signature thanks to gooseberry, tomato leaf, oyster-shell and subtle passionfruit flavours. Good purity and refreshingly crisp finish."

Bob Campbell
Master of Wine

BOB CAMPBELL MW
★★★★★
The Real Review
RECOMMENDED

Tohuwines.co.nz

2019 AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

GOLD	GOLD	TOP RANK	TOP VALUE	FINE WINES
New Zealand International Wine Show	NZ Wine of the Year	The Real Review Recommended	The Real Review Recommended	of New Zealand



TIME FOR SELT

The popularity of seltzer is sweeping the world and now Smirnoff is bringing its delicious and refreshing range to Kiwi consumers. But what is seltzer and why is it the next big thing for the New Zealand market?

SMIRNOFF, THE world's #1 vodka brand, has launched its new Smirnoff Seltzer range in New Zealand through distributor Lion, giving Kiwis the chance to experience the latest premix innovation that is zero sugar, zero carbs and less than 70 calories per serve.

Seltzers are a new category for New Zealand and are defined as an alcoholic mix made with sparkling water rather than soda or soft drink. It is a lower calorie option for consumers looking for a delicious refreshment without added sugar or carbs.

If you think you've heard of seltzers, it's highly likely you have. Seltzers are taking the US market by storm and the category is currently growing at triple digit rates and has been for the last four years. The category, led by US brand White Claw, has seen success off the back of its very light, refreshing flavour.

Smirnoff Seltzer is the first international brand to bring this category across to New Zealand and is launching with three refreshing flavours: Natural Lime, Passionfruit, and Raspberry Rosé. The range is made from Smirnoff Vodka blended with sparkling water and a hint of all natural flavours.

It has a 5% ABV and given the current trends across New Zealand for refreshing lower calorie options, Lion is confident it will be a popular choice with Kiwis all year around. Smirnoff Seltzer comes in convenient slimline 250ml cans and will retail in 12-packs for RRP $25.99.

Smirnoff Assistant Brand Manager,





ZAHHHHHH

Sophie McLeay, says Lion is delighted to bring the refreshing and delicious option of Smirnoff Seltzer to Kiwi consumers. "With the huge success of seltzer in the US, it's very exciting to be leading the charge of seltzer here in New Zealand. Vodka premix drinks are already in good growth, so this zero sugar, zero carb offering will be a great addition to the category.

"What's more, the slimline ready-to-drink can makes it great for when you're not feeling up to showcasing your mixologist skills. Just chill in the fridge, snap open and relax with your Seltzer. It's great to be able give Kiwis another option for their Friday night drinks, so everyone can find something that suits their lifestyle."

Distributed by Lion

"With the huge success of seltzer in the US, it's very exciting to be leading the charge of seltzer here in New Zealand."



Now available!

250mL Smirnoff Seltzer cans

5% ABV, 250mL can 12-pack, RRP $25.99

- 5% ABV
- Zero sugar and zero carbs
- Less than 70 calories per serve

Three refreshing flavours:

- Natural Lime
- Raspberry Rosé
- Passionfruit

NZ Whisky Co. to start production at Speight's



THE NEW Zealand Whisky Co. has entered into a new lease with Lion NZ to establish production within Dunedin's Speight's Brewery. Work began in March and resumed again in May to accommodate the whisky company's new distillery inside the historic brewery's millhouse.

As part of the lease, The New Zealand Whisky Co. will also source several key production inputs direct from Speight's. "We are already working with Speight's expert team of brewers to tailor the supply of our own wash, a sweet un-hopped beer which is the building-block for distilling all single malt whiskies," says founder Greg Ramsay. "To have Lion on board to support us, with such an iconic downtown location, allows us to unlock new avenues and showcase our precious whisky range to more people."

Operating out of Oamaru, one hour north on the Otago Coast, the New Zealand Whisky Co has been successfully building its whisky market internationally, including brands such as Dunedin DoubleWood, South Island Single Malt, and The Oamaruvian. "While we also have grand plans for our new Oamaru Bondstore and Bar, which will remain a key cellar-door and maturation warehouse, it's great to be moving the physical distilling into such a diverse large-scale property," says Ramsay.

He says they're excited to be working with Lion to help take their production to the next level. "Both the whisky category, and new-world whisky in particular, are experiencing fabulous demand. We believe that by working with Speight's to unlock the enormous potential around the Speight's Brewery property, we can go a long way to creating more world-class whisky, and deliver a distillery destination of international acclaim." The first distillation is expected to take place in July.

Coke NZ aims for 20% sugar reduction

Coca-Cola New Zealand has announced a goal to reduce sugar across its portfolio of drinks by 20 per cent[1] by 2025.

The commitment comes amid the company's ongoing work to reduce sugar in existing drinks, develop new no and low sugar options, provide smaller pack sizes and dedicate significant marketing efforts to promote no and low sugar alternatives.

Richard Schlasberg, General Manager Coca-Cola Oceania, says the company is serious about taking a leadership position when it comes to providing choice and reducing the sugar Kiwis consume from beverages. "Over half our growth has been in low and no sugar drinks in the past two years and we now sell more Coca-Cola drinks without sugar in supermarkets than Coca-Cola Classic. In addition, bottled water sales have increased 9% and still water sales 13% in the past two years," he says.

Since 2017, Coca-Cola New Zealand has introduced a range of no and reduced sugar products including Powerade Active Water, Coca-Cola No Sugar, Keri 50% Less Sugar Fruit Drink, limited-edition Coca-Cola Peach No Sugar, Deep Spring Light and new 250mL cans for Kiwi Blue sparkling flavoured waters.

"In 2020 we're planning to reduce the sugar in more of our key products as well as continue to introduce new reduced and no sugar drinks," Schlasberg. "We also continue to support and promote small packs (300mL or under) and are absolutely committed to ensuring our communications are responsible and appropriate for every space and place – ensuring those under 14 are not directly targeted by our advertising or promotions."

Bruce Sherman, chair of the New Zealand Beverage Council, says it applauds Coca-Cola New Zealand for taking this important step towards further reducing sugar in its drinks. "We recently had the Minister of Health respond to the Food Industry Taskforce recommendations about the measures manufacturers will take, and are already taking, towards encouraging healthy lifestyles. The sugar reduction steps taken by Coca-Cola New Zealand demonstrates the beverage industry is already making strong progress in this area," Sherman says.

[1]Based on volume weighted average sugar content (g per 100mL). Reduction from 2016 to 2025. Coca-Cola Oceania (CCO) and Coca-Cola Amatil NZ Beverages (CCANZ) portfolio: Carbonated soft drinks, fruit drinks, fruit juice, iced tea, water and flavoured waters, sports, energy drinks and flavoured milks.



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SHOWCASE

Reimagining indiginous gin

When its gin brand came under attack in March, the team at indiginous took heart from the wave of industry and customer support and are back with a new brand and even more passion...


Chris Charteris, Simon Wilson and Gavin Bradley

On March 2nd 2020, after more than a year in market and with sales booming, the co-founders of 'indiginous' gin, Chris Charteris and Simon Wilson, woke up to their worst nightmare. Their social media pages were under vitriolic attack from a group of cultural activists who objected to their brand name and label design.

Although the brand had received trademark approval from the Māori Advisory Committee of the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ), the activists stepped up their attacks on indiginous over the next 48 hours.

Brand under fire

"I don't think I've ever experienced a feeling like it," says Simon. "We loved our brand like one of the family. We were proud of the culture and creativity it carried. Our hearts, sweat and tears had been poured into indiginous for more than a year. The vicious language and ugly threats absolutely knocked us to the floor."

The story was picked up by several media outlets while the activists turned their attention, and threats of harm, to the social media pages of bottle stores and bars that stocked indiginous.

"We immediately made the decision to withdraw not just the label, but the brand name too", says Creative Director and shareholder Gavin Bradley. "We weren't prepared to put our team, customers and their staff at risk of physical harm."

The continued flood of aggressive messages made for "long days and thick skins", says Chris. "We acknowledge there is an important and relevant discussion to be had around cultural appropriation, so we listened with open minds to the feedback and other points of view. This allows us to learn, grow, and strengthen as a team and business. But it needs to be said that while these individuals may hold strong views, we will never accept threats and violence as okay."

The indiginous team had been careful to do thorough research and seek the correct advice when first creating the brand. To ensure the name would not cause any offence it went through a rigorous screening process and received trademark approval from the Māori Advisory Committee of the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand. This board exists to represent the interests of all Māori, to protect Māori intellectual property rights and to ensure that offensive logos and brands are not trademarked. It granted indiginous a trademark.

The team was therefore later stunned to discover that a Māori cultural adviser quoted in *The New Zealand Herald* as saying the brand was "definitely offensive", was a member of the Māori Advisory Committee of IPONZ who had granted the trademark in the first place.

"We'll again apologise for any offence we caused. It was not intentional," says Simon. "We did the research, we followed the protocol. We were simply trying to express the image of the New Zealand we are proud to be part of. It celebrated culture and the indigenous ingredients sourced from all over the world that go into our gin. We wanted to celebrate that."

'Imagination' – reimagined

Despite the furore, there was a flood of support from fans on social media who praised the way the issue had been handled, followed by a surge in demand for Chris and Simon's products, which re-energised the team. "The support we got from all our customers, and the distilling industry, reminded us how much we loved it," says Chris.

As they started work on a rapid rebrand, New Zealand went into Level 4 lockdown. "Suddenly, we had this very quiet window in which to calmly consider our rebrand; to develop a new brand name without the pressure of having to agree overnight," says Gavin. "We wanted the brand to carry the same positive energy that our customers loved about our story." And so 'imagination distilling' was born – and trademarked.

The indiginous labels were designed by New Zealand tattoo artists for the unique creative storytelling they add, and this continues for imagination. "Our team brief for rebranding was to work from our company values of culture, creativity, passion, quality, collaboration and fun," says Chris.

imagination was chosen to represent the ingenuity and 'anything-is-possible' attitude that epitomises the New Zealand spirit. And plenty of imagination is how the journey continues.

"We're really happy with the outcome of imagination, and we think Scott Waters from Main Street Tattoo has done a fantastic job of capturing this part of our story. It's the same story we told on our previous label - it's our story of place, origin and ingredients," says Chris.

Ⓓ imagination gin is now available. Email orders@imaginationgin.nz (North Island) and orders@punkydistro.com (South Island).



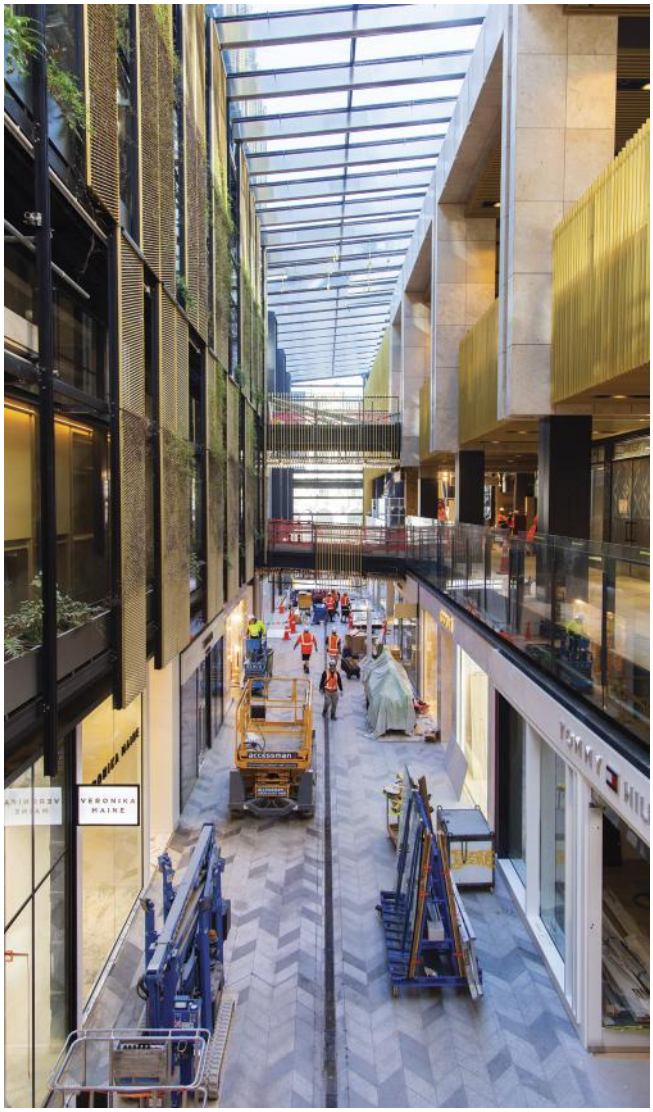

your favourite gin
reimagined
imagination
imagination
HANDCRAFTED NEW ZEALAND GIN

Commercial Bay opens in Auckland

MAJOR NEW retail and hospitality precinct Commercial Bay opened in Auckland on 11 June. The $1b development near the city's waterfront has more than 120 food, beverage and retail outlets from local and international brands, including NYC hospitality concepts The Poni Room and Liquorette.

The precinct will also be home to around 10,000 workers once the new PwC Tower is completed, making Commercial Bay the largest office and retail precinct in the city centre.

Precinct Properties Chief Executive, Scott Pritchard, says he is looking forward to finally unveiling Commercial Bay. "It is unlike any development seen before in this part of the world, with an international quality retail and dining offer that is comparable with any gateway city. Commercial Bay is a symbol of New Zealand's road to recovery in a post-COVID-19 economy and the revitalisation of the city centre. We are incredibly proud to support local businesses as well as first-to-market retailers as they open and get back on their feet after a really tough few months."





Foley Wines to build multi-million dollar development in Martinborough

Foley Wines has announced that construction will begin later this year on a multi-million dollar hospitality destination in Martinborough to house its Te Kairanga, Martinborough Vineyard and Lighthouse Gin brands.

The major development will be located on the edge of the Martinborough Terrace and will include a restaurant, private dining, tasting room, underground barrel hall, and distillery.

Foley Wines CEO Mark Turnbull CEO says Martinborough is a region that more and more wine lovers are getting excited about. "We're committed to investing in the high quality brands we have here both in terms of winemaking and creating a memorable visitor destination that showcases Te Kairanga, Martinborough Vineyard and Lighthouse Gin."

Lighthouse Gin will have a new distillery within the development, with a custom-built copper still commissioned from German distillery manufacturer CARL.

The building has been designed by award-winning architect Charlie Nott, whose portfolio includes Depot Eatery, Best Ugly Bagels and the Amisfield Winery.

Chairman of Foley Wines, Bill Foley said the announcement reflects his passion for the Wairarapa both in terms of its wines and its tourism. "My family continues to invest in Wharekauhau Country Estate, the lodge we personally own in the region. I believe that investment at Te Kairanga will benefit our brands incredibly, but also the broader economy in the greater Wellington region."

Matt Deller MW joins Villa Maria

Villa Maria has appointed Matt Deller MW as Chief Global Sales and Marketing Officer. Deller holds the coveted Master of Wine certification and joined Villa Maria in March, bringing over 20 years' experience in global distribution expansion and strategic wine marketing.

He joins the company as it prepares to mark its 60th anniversary in 2021. "We are very fortunate to have a rich history beginning in 1961 when Sir George Fistonich created Villa Maria with the goal of making premium wine with an unwavering commitment to quality," says Deller. "This unchanged vision coupled with a focus on being market-driven and connecting with consumers in a meaningful way will set us up well for the next chapter of Villa Maria."

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2020 NZ Young Vit and Young Winemaker Comps ready to go


Young Vit Finalists 2019





IT'S TIME to reach for the study books and practise blending, pruning and everything else that will be required of those ready to battle for the title of New Zealand's Young Viticulturist and Young Winemaker as the national competitions start to roll out.

Organiser Nicky Grandorge, Leadership & Communities Manager at New Zealand Winegrowers, says the two competition programmes are incredibly important, as they challenge and support future leaders of the New Zealand wine industry, as well as bring the wine community together. She says this sense of community and being able to get together to support these young leaders and each other will be appreciated more than ever this year. Contestants will be tested thoroughly on the wide range of skills and knowledge required to be a successful viticulturist or winemaker.

"These are such positive initiatives," says Grandorge. "It's fantastic to see individuals grow in confidence and skills, as well as relationships grow between everyone involved, such as previous contestants, winners, sponsors and industry members. It's an exciting and special time of year, so we are thrilled everything can go ahead."

For 2020, Corteva Agriscience has come on board as the new naming rights sponsor for the Young Viticulturist of the Year Competition, while Tonnellerie de Mercurey returns for its sixth year as the naming rights sponsor for Young Winemaker of the Year. Many of the other sponsors have been involved since the start of the competition and their invaluable support continues too.

Young Viticulturist of the Year

This year there will be six regional Young Vit competitions followed by the national final.

2020 is extra special for Young Vit as it marks the 15th anniversary of the competition, which began in 2006. The occasion will be marked with a celebration and small conference in October in Martinborough. This year's national final will be held in conjunction with this and the 15th Young Viticulturist of the Year will be announced at the anniversary dinner on 8 October.

2020 Corteva NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year Competitions	
CENTRAL OTAGO	Thurs 16 July
MARLBOROUGH	Thurs 23 July
S. ISLAND REGIONAL	Fri 31 July
AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND	Fri 7 August
HAWKE'S BAY	Thurs 13 August
WAIRARAPA	Thurs 20 August
NATIONAL FINAL	7-8 October

With thanks to sponsors of the NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year: Corteva, AGMARDT, Biostart, Ecotrellis, Hyundai, Constellation, Empak ,Fedt, Fruitfed Supplies, Indevin, Klima, Ormond Nurseries, Roots Shoots & Fruits, Waterforce, Winejobsonline, and Bahco.

Young Winemaker of the Year

The regional competitions will be held throughout September with the national final being held in Hawke's Bay on 6 November.

2020 Tonnellerie de Mercurey Young Winemaker of the Year Competitions		
NORTH ISLAND in Hawke's Bay	Friday 4 Sept	EIT
CENTRAL OTAGO	Thursday 10 Sept	VinPro
MARLBOROUGH	Weds 16 Sept	NMIT
NATIONAL FINAL in Hawke's Bay	Friday 6 Nov	EIT

With thanks to sponsors of the NZ Young Winemaker of the Year: Tonnellerie de Mercurey, Crown Sheetmetal, Farmlands, Guala Closures NZ, Laffort, O-I Glass, Programmed Property Services, and Winejobsonline.

For more information and entry forms contact Nicky Grandorge on nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com, 021 780 948 or visit nzwine.com/en/initiatives/

The River Runs Gold

The highly awarded Wairau River range of wines continues to impress the judges. The 2019 vintages of the Sauvignon Blanc, Rosé and Gewürztraminer have picked up nine golds and two trophies between them, proving once again that Marlborough's Wairau River produces the ideal conditions to strike gold.

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In association with the New Zealand Wine Hall of Fame
Salute to
Championship Award Winners for 2020

Guala Closures Award for Champion Wine of the Show:
Church Road McDonald Series Chardonnay 2018

Rapid Labels Trophy for Champion Sparkling
Petit Cordon by Maison Mumm NV

Red Badge Security Award for Champion Riesling
Wairau River Summer Riesling 2019

Royal Easter Show Award for Champion Pinot Gris
Saddleback Pinot Gris 2019

The Production & Music Agency Award for Champion Rosé
Babydoll Rosé 2019

Guala Closures Award for Champion Sauvignon Blanc
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 20 Cash Block Sauvignon Blanc 2019

Pullman Auckland Award for Champion Wine, Other Varieties
Matawhero Church House Chenin Blanc 2018

New Zealand WineGrower Magazine Trophy for Champion Pinot Noir
VALLI Bendigo Vineyard Pinot Noir 2018

Winezeal Enterprises Ltd Award for Champion Gewürztraminer
Old Coach Road Nelson Gewürztraminer 2019

winejobsonline.com Award for Champion Medium Sweet or Sweet Wine
Urlar Late Harvest Riesling Gladstone 2019

New World Award for Champion Chardonnay
Church Road McDonald Series Chardonnay 2018

MyFarm Award for Champion Merlot & Blends
Esk Valley Gimblett Gravels Hawkes Bay Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

ASB Showgrounds Award for Champion Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends
Esk Valley Winemakers Reserve Gimblett Gravels Hawkes Bay Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec 2018

Mainfreight Award for Champion Export Wine
Whitehaven Marlborough 'Greg' Awatere Valley Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2019

Auckland Agricultural & Pastoral Association Heritage Rosebowl
Seifried Winemakers Collection Sweet Agnes Riesling 2009, 2014, 2019

Esvin Wine Resources Award for Champion Syrah
Church Road Grand Reserve Syrah 2017

Guala Closures Award for Best Presented Screwcap Wine Bottle
Lawson's Dry Hills Pink Pinot 2019

Auckland Agricultural & Pastoral Association Gold Medal for Winemaker of the Year
Chris Scott (Church Road)

For a full list of Medals awarded, visit www.wineshow.co.nz
Since 1953 - New Zealand's Oldest National Wine Competition

BRI opens new research winery

BRAGATO RESEARCH Institute opened its new Research Winery in Marlborough in late February, where it will trial new technology and innovation for the wine industry.

"This world-class facility will enable the New Zealand wine industry to take research trials through to finished wines under tightly controlled experimental conditions. With wine industry exports now valued at $1.86 billion, BRI's activities will support the ongoing sustainable growth of the industry through research and innovation," says MJ Loza, the CEO of BRI.

The new facility will trial winemaking equipment, technologies and processes and sustainable winery operations. It will also provide commercial research winemaking services to suppliers and industry. BRI has already designed and built custom- fermentation tanks and says scalability trials of these world-first prototypes proved successful, when compared to commercial tanks.

The institute also intends for the new Research Winery to provide a sustainability benchmark for industry at large, targeting a 5 Green Star certified Built rating. It is being launched under a continuous improvement sustainability plan, and has been future proofed to allow for upscaled sustainability as time and funding permit.

bri.co.nz



Richard Briggs



WSET fast-tracks digital learning

The Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) has announced that it is fast-tracking its investment plans for online delivery of all its qualifications.

WSET, the world's largest global provider of wine, spirits and sake qualifications, currently offers its Levels 1-4 Award in Wines and Levels 1-2 in Spirits as online courses. However, in response to the situation caused by COVID-19, which forced the vast majority of its 800+ course providers to suspend delivery of classroom courses, in mid-April the organisation offered all course providers enhanced digital delivery options.

WSET is also exploring options to fast-track the use of computer-based testing for all its online courses. Trials are currently being run for its Level 1 Award in Sake.

Ian Harris, WSET CEO, said, "We are determined to give our course providers the best online tools available and to minimise the impact of the current crisis on our students' educational journey with WSET. We already had a strong 'digital first' strategy and investment plan in place, so I am incredibly proud that our dedicated team has been able to roll this out in such a short space of time."

WSETglobal.com

SHOWCASE

Native – NZ's first Hard Sparkling growing rapidly across Aotearoa

Locally made, Native Hard Sparkling launched in 2019 and is now stocked in 225+ locations. Native is at the forefront of bringing conscious consumerism to the alcohol industry; on a mission to create an easy avenue for consumers to support local conservation projects and have fun too!

Partnering with initiatives such as Trees That Count and the Pūkaha Wildlife Centre, Native allows On- and Off-Premises to show customers they're supporting local brands and charities that work towards improving Aotearoa's native species, while also offering something completely new to quench their thirst.

Co-Founder and CEO, Guy Hobson, believes the COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to place greater emphasis on supporting locally-made, socially responsible businesses. "Let's not just consume our way out of this situation at any cost. We have an incredible opportunity to build a world we want to live in, supporting local businesses that deliver to our people, planet and profit."

Native is 4.6% alcoholic sparkling water – low in sugar, carbs and calories, with real fruit for flavour. It's been hugely popular at beer and wine festivals across Aotearoa for its simplicity and pure taste. With Hard Seltzers being one of the fastest growing beverage markets in North America, Native is leading the way in New Zealand, catering for a range of age groups looking for an alternative lighter option.

Now with Tasman and Allied Liquor or get in touch with the Native team at kiaora@nativesparkling.nz

nativesparkling.nz



Lion to launch White Claw in Australia

LION AUSTRALIA announced in late May that it has entered a partnership with Mark Anthony Brands International, the makers of White Claw Hard Seltzer, to import, market and exclusively distribute the beverage in Australia.

The new agreement between Mark Anthony Brands International and Lion will give Australians their first taste of White Claw Hard Seltzer from October this year.

Launched in 2016, the U.S. brand dominates the seltzer category with close to 60% market share, almost three times the size of its nearest competitor and in the process has become something of a cultural phenomenon, with passionate consumers in their millions championing the brand online.

The deal marks a significant step forward in the seltzer category for Lion in Australia. Initially Lion will import and distribute three leading variants – White Claw Mango, White Claw Natural Lime, and White Claw Ruby Grapefruit, with more to come.

James Brindley, Managing Director of Lion Australia said he was looking forward to seeing Australia's response to the seltzer that has taken North America by storm. "The popularity of White Claw cannot be disputed. Despite the fact the product has not actually been available in Australia up until now, it has well and truly earned its place in popular culture and is the market leader globally in this exciting new category. It is the most sought-after beverage brand in the world right now," Brindley said.



"It is a natural fit for our growing portfolio of adult beverages beyond our core beer range – and taps into a number of consumer trends around lower calorie and lower sugar products. We believe the seltzer category represents a significant growth opportunity for Lion over the coming years and we are looking forward to bringing the biggest seltzer brand in the world to Australia."

Asahi acquires Carlton & United Breweries

Asahi Beverages announced in May that Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board had approved its acquisition of Carlton & United Breweries (CUB). The approval represented the conclusion of the regulatory review process and CUB joined Asahi Beverages on 1 June.

CUB will become a business division of the Asahi Beverages Regional Hub within Oceania, along with Asahi Lifestyle Beverages, Asahi Premium Beverages and Asahi Beverages New Zealand.

IWSR forecasts 5 years for beverage alcohol to rebound

THOUGH WORLDWIDE beverage alcohol volume increased slightly in 2019, reversing declines from the year prior, research from IWSR Drinks Market Analysis indicates it will be five years before the global industry rebounds from the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

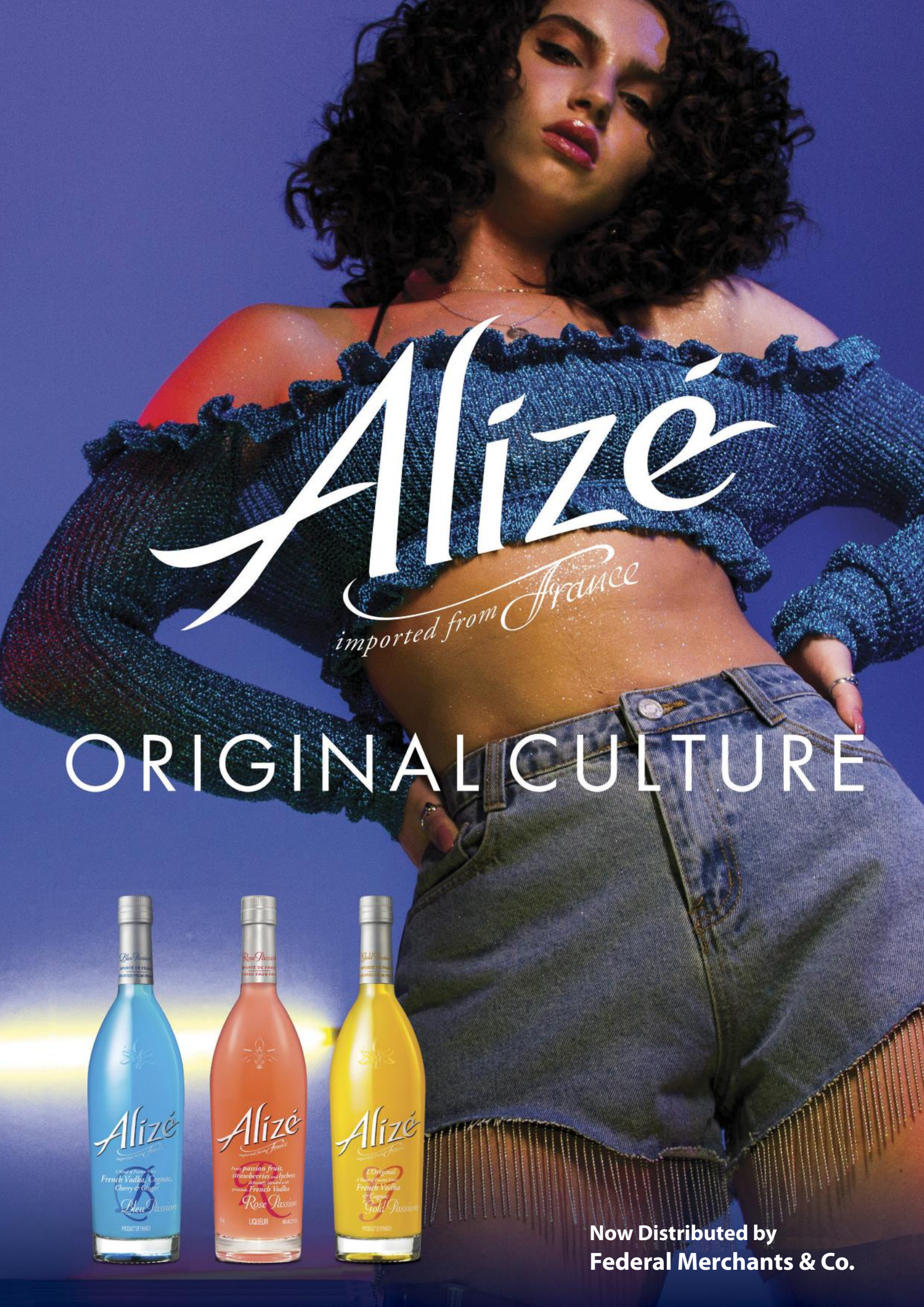
In a release issued in late May, IWSR, regarded as the leading authority on the global beverage alcohol market, said that total global alcohol consumption, led by increases in beer and ready-to-drink products, grew by +0.1% in volume and +3.6% in value in 2019, but losses in the months-long near complete shutdown of bars and restaurants across the world this year has not been offset by upticks in liquor retail and ecommerce.

IWSR expects this to lead to double-digit declines in 2020, which it estimates will take until 2024 to reach 2019 pre-COVID-19 levels (though in the UK and US, IWSR forecasts that pre- COVID -19 beverage alcohol volume levels likely won't return until after 2024). Global travel retail, severely affected by widespread travel restrictions, will see a particularly harsh decline in 2020 but is expected to reach pre-crisis levels by 2024.

"While we're still assessing the full impact of the current COVID -19 situation, it's very clear that the pandemic is set to cause a deeper and more long-lasting after-effect to the global drinks industry than anything we've experienced before. Even the downturn following the 2008 financial crisis was less severe than what we are seeing now," says Mark Meek, CEO of IWSR Drinks Market Analysis. "In many ways, 2019 was perhaps the last 'normal' year for the drinks industry.

"As restrictions ease, long term recovery is expected to be slower than the initial bounce back – driving a 'Nike Swoosh' rebound shape," adds Meek. "Like many other industries, it's incredible how a few months of lockdown will result in several years of recovery, but beverage alcohol has proven to be remarkably resilient in previous downturns, and this should be no different. A strong focus on innovation, premiumisation, and new routes to market such as ecommerce, are all factors which will help contribute to the industry's rebound and future growth."

theiwsr.com


Alizé
imported from France
ORIGINAL CULTURE
Alizé
French Vodka, Cognac, Cherry & Ginger
Bleu Passion
Alizé
passion fruit, strawberries and lychee
French Vodka
Rose Passion
LIQUEUR
Alizé
L'Original
French Vodka & Cognac
Gold Passion
Now Distributed by
Federal Merchants & Co.

Karma launches Kombucha



THE FOLK at Karma Drinks have added a kombucha to their feel-good beverage line-up with the arrival of Karma Kombucha. The organic probiotic drink is available in four flavours: Ginger & Lemon, Cherry & Berry, Raspberry & Lemon, and Mango & Passionfruit. It's unpasteurised (to keep all the good bacteria), certified organic, and has less than one gram of sugar per bottle. Every bottle purchased also contributes to the Karma Foundation, which supports the communities producing the ingredients.

Karma Kombucha 330ml RRP $5.

Karma Drinks



New cannabis-inspired Good Herb Sodas

Two new non-alcoholic sparkling herbal infusions have been launched by Kiwi company Grassene. The Good Herb Sodas come in two varieties: Unwind and InZone. Its makers say that each blend has been inspired by cannabis strains and recreated using terpenes extracted from natural plants. Terpenes are organic aromatic compounds that give plants, flowers, herbs and fruit their own unique scent and flavour.

'Unwind' is described as a refreshing mango clove lemonade with earthy, berry and sweet aromas; while InZone is a ginger berry lemonade with wood and pine aromas.

Available in 12 x 250ml bottles. RRP $6 per bottle.

Good Herb Soda

Ordering Hard Sparkling, just got easier.

- NZ made with real fruit
- Low-sugar | Low-carb
- Supporting native NZ species
- **Now available from Tasman & Allied Liquor –** or contact direct: kiaora@nativesparkling.nz



WHAT WHISKY'S BEEN WAITING FOR

If you're a staunch purist who believes whisky should never be mixed with anything but water, then turn the page.

At Fever-Tree, we believe it can be mixed with more.

That's why we created a range of the finest quality Fever-Tree Ginger Ales. Mixers blended with naturally sourced gingers from around the world, each crafted to enhance the complex flavours within different styles of whisky.

Creating simple, refreshing ways to enjoy your favourite whisky.



FEVER-TREE

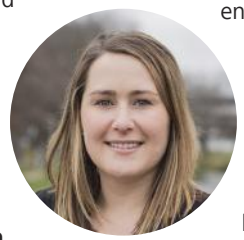
Looking ahead

The New Zealand drinks industry is picking up the pieces amid the challenges of COVID-19. We spoke to the industry bodies representing New Zealand's local brewers, distillers and winemakers to find out how they fared and where to from here...

Brewers Guild

Sabrina Kunz, Executive Director

Overview: The Guild says while it hasn't seen evidence of any significant shutdowns among the 220 breweries around the country, it is aware many have been relying on the governmental support available. For the first time in its 15 year history, the Brewers Guild Awards were cancelled, and will instead be held in Auckland in 2021, along with the Guild Conference. The Guild has also reduced its membership fees this year by 40%, to ensure breweries can continue to access its support and services.



Learning through lockdown

While brewers could continue to produce throughout lockdown and many shifted to direct sales, the sudden closure of hospitality venues across the country hit hard. "A huge amount of our beer is in hospitality and that closed overnight," says Sabrina Kunz. "That created not just major uncertainty but also a significant financial challenge for breweries in terms of product that remained unpaid for and also product that may not be able to be consumed."

The Brewers Guild helped its members to understand the new rules of operation and sales during lockdown, including issues around those working from home and the effort required in terms of production and accessing the correct PPE gear.

Smaller breweries that relied predominantly on kegged products for hospitality or taproom sales had to look at a shift to packaged product to get it into supermarkets or ready for online sales.

Kunz says breweries were quick to innovate, but there are still major challenges to come. "As the wage subsidy ends and we move into winter, I think they're going to see more impact."

Excise relief

Brewers have requested excise relief for the thousands of litres of beer that went unsold during lockdown. When speaking to *Drinksbiz* in late May, Kunz said Customs understood the issue and was "actively engaged" in looking at it.

Avoiding a race to the bottom

As breweries look to get more of their product back out to market, Sabrina Kunz is wary of a "race to the bottom" on price as businesses try to win back hospo venues and consumers. "Like the tourism industry has been saying 'Don't drop your prices too much, value your product'. I don't know that we've done ourselves a favour over the last many years. We've absorbed increases in packaging, labelling and excise increases so we haven't had to raise prices for the consumer and yet

NZ Winegrowers

Philip Gregan, CEO

Overview: With promising reports already from the 2020 harvest and strong demand for New Zealand wine during lockdown, NZ Winegrowers has high hopes of increased local support for winemakers.

Impact on members



While COVID-19 restrictions did impact the way the harvest was run, NZ Winegrowers says the quality of the wine remains unaffected and it's looking forward to some exceptional wines coming from this year's vintage. "In terms of impact on sales, we're seeing two situations in markets," says Philip Gregan. "While there has been strong demand for New Zealand wine in supermarkets and online retail, many wineries focused on hospitality and cellar door sales have been negatively impacted. Initially, the lack of tourists has hit our wine regions hard. Encouragingly, the reputation of our wine remains strong in our key international markets, and our wines continue to resonate with consumers and the trade."

A quick response

In February, New Zealand Winegrowers formed a COVID-19 Wine Industry Response Team to focus on current impacts on the industry. It communicated regularly with members to outline the latest and most relevant information and its dedicated webpage (nzwine.com/en/covid19) remains the central hub for regions and members with latest updates and best practice guidelines.

A virtual shift for promotions

With New Zealand's major export markets going into lockdown, international borders closed, and no gatherings permitted, New Zealand Winegrowers postponed or cancelled its international promotional events and education activities. "We quickly moved into virtual execution, creating digital initiatives to connect with the trade," says Philip Gregan. "This included 'speed dating' with buyers, expert panel discussions, as well as connecting with consumers via podcasts, livestreams and webinars."

NZ Winegrowers also experimented with some novel approaches in China. "We created an online 'national pavilion' at newly created online Lookvin Expo with strong interest from New Zealand wineries to take part. We also hosted livestreaming courses with influential Chinese wine media that had a combined reach of 19,500+ wine lovers, and increased traffic to New Zealand Wine e-commerce platforms on Tmall and JD.com."

margins now are so slim. My concern is that we're going to start to compete on price and if we do that I think you're going to see more breweries unable to survive. I don't think we should undervalue ourselves… in the long run it doesn't pay off."

Re-thinking the model

With further closures possible in hospitality, Sabrina Kunz says breweries of all sizes will likely change how they think about their business models and find new channels to market. "We have seen a lot of 'support local' for small breweries in regional areas or in suburbs of our major centres [since Alert Level 2]. With the rise of taprooms over the last two years I think we'll see an ongoing focus on having your own venue and getting people to come and try your beer where it's made."

Beer tourism the way forward

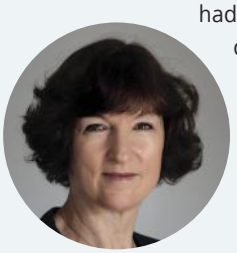
The new campaign for domestic tourism and the impending creation of a trans-Tasman 'bubble' means the Guild is renewing efforts around its work on encouraging New Zealand beer tourism. "We received a mandate from our membership about two years ago to really start to push into this space… which is all about getting people to the places where the beer is made and experiencing great Kiwi beer," says Kunz. She says the presence of breweries throughout the country and New Zealand's reputation as a producer of world-class beer offers a great tourism opportunity. The Guild is working on an updated version of the NZ Ale Trail that it launched a couple of years ago ("That product alone has seen small breweries join the Guild because they understand that getting people to their local community is so important to their success") and has established a Tourism Working Group with the primary goal of getting Tourism New Zealand to invest in beer tourism.

"We've really struggled to get engagement at a domestic level or any governmental support. Some RTOs have been more interested than others." She says one of the key stumbling blocks is the default category of "food and wine" in tourism resources for travellers.

"What we're trying to do is to put together a case that says wine is an amazing export success for New Zealand but beer is the domestic success and beer is the domestic focus. Given what we contribute to the domestic and local economy and given how broadly we are across the country it seems a no-brainer to provide some support."

Distilled Spirits Association

Sue James, Chair



Overview: There are around 84 distilleries in New Zealand, from small garage-based operations to established businesses. The DSA, which has 56 members, estimates that around 25 of the country's total distilleries may shut down post-COVID. The second year of the NZ Spirits Awards, which were due to be judged mid-March, are now tentatively scheduled for later in 2020.

A blow to the 'new generation'

The widespread job losses caused by COVID-19 mean some distillers with full or part-time day jobs simply may not be able to continue funding their distilleries, which are generally cashflow negative for the first few years. "Potentially, we could be facing almost like a 'generation' of our industry just walking away," says Sue James. "This is those who are just starting to get caught up in the energy of distilling and the excitement of manufacturing, but now it's just too hard."

She says DSA members have reported up to 50% of their debtors were not able to meet payments and while the hospitality closures had an impact, it was the cancellation of other retail channels like markets and food expos that hurt too. "Those were huge budgeted cashflow. On a positive note, when those were cancelled it did mean that distilleries could demonstrate immediate loss of income and claim the wage subsidy, and some got booking refunds, but the loss of marketing opportunities and sales is that flow-on effect for the future of brand awareness… so some of them will have to start again."

Sales and sanitiser

When online sales resumed, many distillers packaged their products as gifts around Easter and Mother's Day, or at-home cocktail packs. The other opportunity was in hand sanitiser, which had been selling out fast at supermarkets and chemists around the country.

The DSA formed a working group and collaborated with agencies like the EPA, Pharmac, MedSafe, Customs and NZ Post on creating a streamlined process for sanitiser production. "There was huge community interest and some of the distilleries already had people knocking on their door, like GPs, pharmacies and DHBs," says James. "We created a manufacturing handbook and sent that to members and non-members."

While just 11 distilleries ended up making sanitiser, it was a wider industry collaboration with other distillers and even winemakers sending product for use.

Excise relief

Easing the financial pressure on distilleries was a priority for the DSA, which approached Customs Minister Jenny Salesa directly, and as part of a wider industry group, and successfully requested that distillers be allowed to delay or defer excise payments without interest or penalties. However, their requests for a freeze on the July excise increase and for an excise rebate were rejected.

Where to from here

The move to Level 1 has seen the return of markets and other larger events, which Sue James says will help restore some cashflow to struggling businesses. She says cellar doors are another profitable avenue and several of the more 'mature' distilleries, such as Reefton, Cardrona, Juno and Elemental are well supported at these. "The 'mature' members are what I'd call those who have been around three plus years. And that just shows you how fast it will grow once we get out and get going again."

At its AGM in May, (held via Skype), the DSA reaffirmed its strategic areas of focus as continued lobbying around excise relief; creating industry standards; and starting work on "brand New Zealand" to raise the profile of individual spirit styles made here, starting with New Zealand whisky. "Like Scotch, or Irish whiskey, this is Kiwi," explains James. "This is New Zealand whisky and the uniqueness of that."

Meeting the challenge

When the COVID-19 lockdown brought New Zealand retail to a virtual standstill, Liquorland CEO Brendon Lawry says the business and its Franchisees rose to the challenge and are now planning for the future

What have the past few months been like for Liquorland?
A combination of scary, confusing, and bizarre. COVID-19 has changed the way we do many things forever: the way we work, and what customers will expect from us. There are still a number of challenges ahead and the commercial impact of C-19 has a long way to go. But as a business I think we've learnt a lot, built resilience, come closer as a team and strengthened the trust with our customers.

How did Liquorland manage its COVID-19 response?
We set out very early to focus hard on the things we could control. We didn't want anything that took the energy and focus from what I think has been the most important role the Liquorland Support Office has played for the network.

On behalf of our Franchisees, we became experts in the wage subsidy, to the point that we were asking so many questions of MBIE that they allocated us our own account manager! We also became experts on the obligations under each Alert Level and ensured we had a platform the Franchisees could access to get information as quickly as possible.

Being part of Foodstuffs generated an advantage for us too. We were part of a daily crisis meeting where we got to understand the direction they were getting from government and agencies under their 'essential service' status.

We got to understand well ahead of time what our obligations were (or likely to be) at each Alert Level and then could liaise with our own Liquorland advisory council to design the plans to communicate these under each Alert Level. We were also working with local licensing authorities and councils around New Zealand.

How did you remove financial pressure for Franchisees?
We couldn't remove all the financial pressure, but before the end of week one of lockdown we announced a significant injection of funds to all Franchisees who needed it, as well as agreements to defer all our relevant Franchise charges.

We negotiated support packages of extended credit (or similar) with our key supply partners, negotiated on behalf of some Franchisees with landlords and organised all the necessary PPE for stores (in case it was needed) and had a contact tracing tool ready to go, specific to each store.

How did you prepare to start up again?
We focused on the fastest start possible out of Alert Level 4. We implemented the changes we needed on our Click and Collect site, negotiated our promotional activity to re-start in different timeframes, and worked with our agency and printers to get mailers re-organised and delivered. We did the same thing in planning for Alert Level 2, even though at the time it went to print we didn't know how we were going to be allowed to trade.



"In the face of the toughest trading conditions anyone has ever experienced we've seen the quality of our network firmly on show."

– Brendon Lawry, CEO Liquorland

How did Franchisees respond?
They've been simply amazing. In the face of the toughest trading conditions anyone has ever experienced we've seen the quality of our network firmly on show. The plans the store teams had around managing physical distancing, picking tens of thousands of orders for Click and Collect and delivery was awesome.

How successful was Click & Collect for Liquorland?
Our Click and Collect website was a saviour for us for the two weeks of Alert Level 3. The volume of orders and the turnover far exceeded even our most optimistic predictions.

By the end of day one, we had over 3000 customer comments (via our online customer feedback tool) about the experience on the website and at store at pick-up. It was a far higher rate of commentary vs. normal trading and was overwhelmingly positive. We think use of Click and Collect will stay high… it'll just become part of the new way that people will shop.

Where to from here?
The condition of the economy, the health of the traditional retail sector, the impact of a significantly reduced tourism sector and the way we and the rest of New Zealand manage COVID-19 to ensure no future outbreak is all going to have a massive bearing on Liquorland and all other retail in New Zealand.

The most important work-stream is continuing to focus on what we can control and meeting customers' expectations.

It's our feeling that Kiwis are more aware now than ever that how and where they spend their money has a material impact, and we want to respect that and ensure that we continue to earn the right to have customers shop with us (be it online, Click and Collect or physically in-store) and that they recognise we care, and provide an experience that they talk about.

LiquorLand



If you are a customer focused retailer with a passion for our industry, now is an exciting time to join us.

Liquorland is New Zealand's premium liquor franchise with over 125 stores nationwide. Liquorland benefits include:

- Excellent supplier terms
- Support office expertise in operations, merchandise, finance, IT and marketing
- Annual profit share rebate
- Fly Buys, Airpoints and Click & Collect
- Ongoing product and service training
- National promotional and marketing programme
- Nearly 40 years' experience as a Franchisor
- Alignment with Foodstuffs NZ
- New Zealand's most preferred liquor retailer*

If you're interested in becoming a Liquorland franchisee please email **enquiry@liquorland.co.nz** or phone Dave Yurak on **027 457 2210**

airpoints™ FlyBuys **liquorland.co.nz**

* Shopper Tracker Statistics 2019.

CHARDONNAY **RULES**



Chardonnay remains the world's most popular white wine – *Joelle Thomson* highlights some excellent local examples and a few international stunners

Under RRP $20

2018 Pask Instinct Liquid Gold Chardonnay

RRP $17

Hancocks

Creamy, buttery flavours and a full body are all present and counted in this super affordable Chardonnay, which more than lives up to its name. It has spicy mid-palate notes, a lingering finish and is great value for money too – remarkable at less than $20. **17.5/20**

2019 Ara Single Estate Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP $17.95

Giesen

Ara Chardonnay is a dry, full-bodied white with toasty, creamy flavours that are instantly relatable for Chardonnay lovers who like their wines big, bold and buttery. The cool nights in Marlborough add balance to this wine in the form of crisp freshness; much needed as a counterweight to the smooth texture. This is great value for money. **17.5/20**

2018 Pā Road Chardonnay

RRP $17.99

Beverage Brothers

Talk about a good value Chardonnay. This big brand produces extremely consistent wines and this one has bright, fresh citrusy fruit and a creamy finish. **17.5/20**

2017 Taylors Estate Chardonnay

RRP $19.99

Taylor Brown

The grapes in this wine come from the Clare Valley and were fermented then matured for 10 months in French oak (10% new and 20% older) so the wine gains smoothness and spicy notes with subtle wood influence. It was blended, stabilised and fined in stainless steel prior to bottling. The alcohol is 13.4% ABV and the wine is dry. **17.5/20**

2018 Koha Chardonnay

RRP $19.99

Beverage Brothers

Koha is part of the te Pā wine stable, a company owned by the MacDonald family who live in Marlborough. Koha is the introductory Chardonnay and is a fresh, medium-bodied, crisp and bright young wine with fruit forward flavours and light notes of creaminess. **17/20**

Ara Chardonnay has toasty, creamy flavours that are instantly relatable for Chardonnay lovers who like their wines big, bold and buttery.

RRP $20 to $30

2018 Spade Oak Voysey Gisborne Chardonnay

RRP $20

Wine2Trade

Steve Voysey is one of the kings of Chardonnay in Gisborne and for this wine he used Chardonnay clones 95 and 548, along with 4% Viognier from his own Spade Oak vineyard, which adds flesh and rich stonefruit flavours to the wine. The Viognier was fermented in barrel with indigenous yeasts. The wine was aged for seven months with oak contact and spent six months on lees with malolactic fermentation to soften the acidity and add a creamy taste. **17.5/20**

2019 Wairau River Chardonnay

RRP $20

Federal Merchants

Wairau River Wines is one of Marlborough's oldest wineries, established in 1978 by Phil and Chris Rose, who produced a wide range of varietals as well as establishing an attractive cellar door in the heart of this vast region's wine golden mile. This introductory level Chardonnay has creamy aromas and fresh citrus and stone fruit flavours, complemented by complex cedar and spice notes from maturation in French oak barriques. It's one of Marlborough's best value Chardonnays around the $20 mark. **17.5/20**



Fat & Sassy Chardonnay is going from strength to strength, with winemaker Tony Bish growing production each year of the full-bodied wine.

2019 Fat & Sassy Chardonnay
RRP $21.99
Tony Bish Wines

Fat & Sassy goes from strength to strength, both here and in Australia, says winemaker Tony Bish, who is growing production each year and resisting the suggestion to change the formula of this wine, which is dry, creamy and full-bodied, thanks to lots of lees work, full malolactic fermentation and ripe grapes, mostly grown in the Bridge Pa Triangle in Hawke's Bay. He ferments Fat & Sassy in oak, with a portion in stainless steel to retain freshness, and the balance in barriques. The wine has about 20 per cent new oak and is rich in taste, thanks to its maker's unwavering belief in Chardonnay's greatness. **18.5/20**

2018 Mills Reef Reserve Chardonnay
RRP $23.99
Mills Reef Wines

Mills Reef is a great go-to wine for lovers of creamy, ripe, fleshy stonefruity Chardonnays and this wine made with Hawke's Bay grapes delivers all of the above and more. It's superb value for money with all the buttery bells and whistles. **18.5/20**

2017 Jackson Estate Shelter Belt Chardonnay
RRP $24
Hancocks

The grapes in this wine come from Jackson Estate's Homestead Vineyard in Marlborough, which was planted in 1988. They were all hand-harvested and whole bunch pressed then fermented in French oak barriques, which accentuates the wine's creamy, soft and fleshy white peach flavours. It's nicely balanced by fresh zesty acidity and a lingering finish. **17.5/20**

2018 Charles Wiffen Marlborough Chardonnay
RRP $24
Co Pilot

Charles Wiffin Wines is a family-owned business and the grapes in this wine come from the Wiffen Omaka block. They were 100% fermented in barrel then aged for nine months in French oak, 20% new. The wine was lees stirred and went through 100% malolactic fermentation, which provides its nutty, creamy, full body and rich buttery notes. It's drinking well now and can evolve further. **17.5/20**

2018 te Pā Marlborough Chardonnay
RRP $24.99
Beverage Brothers

This wine is made from grapes grown on three different vineyards in Marlborough's vast Wairau Plains, with a small portion of grapes from the Waihopai Valley. Cool nights enable the grapes to retain crisp, citrusy freshness in this vibrant, full-bodied wine. It offers very good value for money and highlights the great potential of our largest wine region to make top Chardonnay in a range of prices. **17.5/20**

2018 Tiki Single Vineyard Hawke's Bay Chardonnay
RRP $24.99
Federal Merchants

This dry, flavoursome Chardonnay is made from grapes grown at 175 metres above sea level in Hawke's Bay and given 100% barrel fermentation by winemaker Evan Ward, whose aim is to make a creamy, smooth, powerful wine at an accessible price. The wine is aged for 10 months in oak, adding structure and smoothness. **17.5/20**

2018 Whitehaven Chardonnay
RRP $24.99
Whitehaven Wines

Here's a Chardonnay that successfully has a foot in both camps: on the one hand, its deliciously rich and creamy flavours tick the buttery box; and on the other, its crisp fresh acidity (thanks to Marlborough's cool nights) allows this wine to retain a zingy, refreshing quality that has 'modern in a good way' written all over it. And then there's the accessible price tag. This wine is stunning in taste and in value. **18.5/20**





2019 Jules Taylor Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP $24.99

Hancocks

Winemaker Jules Taylor uses grapes from two vineyards in Marlborough's southern valleys to make this impressive Chardonnay, which over-delivers big time on taste and price. A portion of the grapes were pressed as whole clusters into French oak, where they went through a wild ferment, while the remainder were fermented in stainless steel. The barrel ferment portion was aged on lees for nine months and stirred regularly to add body, which comes through in this rich, flavoursome dry white, which is balanced by fresh acidity. Drinks well now and can age for up to a decade. **19/20**

2016 Pask Small Batch Wild Yeast Chardonnay

RRP $26

Hancocks

This wine is small in production but more than makes up for it with a full-bodied, savoury style. I love the spicy notes and integration of oak, yeast and grapey flavours, which all combine deliciously in this tasty experimental wine from Pask. A stunner. **19/20**

2018 Spade Oak The Prospect Ormond Chardonnay

RRP $26

Wine2Trade

This Gisborne Chardonnay is made mostly from the Mendoza clone of Chardonnay, which is also known as 'hen and chicken' due to the variable size of its berries (large and tiny on the same bunch). This provides wines with high acidity (from the small berries) coupled with rich peachy flavours from the larger ones. It's blended with 10% Spade Oak Viognier, which was fermented with indigenous yeast and then aged for 11 months in 25% new French oak with the remainder going through malolactic fermentation. As a result, it's full-bodied, creamy and smooth with bold, buttery flavours and a long finish. **18.5/20**

2017 Bogle Phantom Chardonnay Clarksburg

RRP $28.99

Dhall & Nash

Big, bold, creamy flavours rule the roost in this intense Californian Chardonnay, which has gone through full malolactic fermentation and tastes like it, with aromas of buttered popcorn, caramel and cream. This is a Chardonnay for those who love big, buttery styles. **17.5/20**

2016 Taylors Jaraman Chardonnay

RRP $29.99

Taylor Brown

Family-owned Taylors Wines is based in the Clare Valley, which is also home to 51% of the grapes in this refreshing, dry Chardonnay, while vineyards in the Adelaide Hills make up the remainder. The grapes were gently pressed into French oak for fermentation: 60% new and 40% second and third use. Half of the wine was wild fermented and 'battonage' (lees stirring) was used to enhance the creamy notes during eight months of maturation in barrel. **18.5/20**

RRP $30 - $39.99

2019 Wairau River Reserve Chardonnay

RRP $30

Federal Merchants

This wine is made from 100% hand-picked grapes grown on two vineyard areas owned by the Rose family, founders of Wairau River Wines. These vineyards are the home block, around the winery, and their nearby Rapaura vineyards. All the grapes were fermented in French oak barriques and matured for 11 months post-ferment, which provides the rich textural flavours and big, buttery notes, which are nicely balanced by a purity of crisp, citrusy fruit flavours, thanks to the cool nights in this region. This is a significant step up from the winery's introductory level Chardonnay and punches well above its weight in quality for $30. Great value. **18.5/20**

2017 Greystone Chardonnay
RRP $34.99
Procure

Always a wine that over-delivers, thanks to Greystone Wines' unwavering focus on quality. This Chardonnay was made from hand-harvested grapes that were whole bunch pressed into French oak where they went through indigenous yeast fermentation and the wine was then matured in barrel for 11 months. All Greystone wines are now 100% organically certified. **18.5/20**

2018 Tiki Koro Hawke's Bay Chardonnay
RRP $34.99
Federal Merchants

Hand-harvested grapes were gently pressed and fermented in 70% new French oak barriques followed by 100% malolactic fermentation, which softens the wine's fresh acidity and adds complexity to the taste. This is further enhanced by 10 months ageing on lees in barrel, during which time the yeast cells break down, releasing manoproteins and nutrients into this flavoursome Chardonnay. Winemaker Evan Ward suggests this Chardonnay as a great match with seafood and creamy dishes. **18.5/20**

2018 Saint Clair Omaka Reserve Chardonnay
RRP $35
Negociants

Marlborough Chardonnay is one of this country's most underrated wines and this wine proves it yet again, thanks to rich buttery flavours, full body and succulence. This is a powerful example of a great white from New Zealand's biggest wine region, thanks to the winemaking team and the Ibbotson family, who own the winery. A must-try for Chardonnay lovers. **18.5/20**

2018 Two Rivers Clos des Pierres Chardonnay
RRP $36
Procure

Winemaker David Clouston used grapes from The Spring (stony soils) and Brookby Hill vineyards in the Wairau and southern valleys in Marlborough, respectively, for this wine. All grapes were hand-harvested, whole bunch pressed and fermented using indigenous yeasts with lees stirring and full malolactic fermentation to dial up body and flavour. It was aged for 11 months in a combination of new and seasoned French oak barrels as well as a concrete egg. The wine was bottled unfiltered and drinks well now but can also improve for up to five years. **17.5/20**

2018 Nautilus Chardonnay
RRP $38
Negociants

This is a keeper. History shows that Nautilus Chardonnay ages elegantly and consistently, and it reliably retains its hallmark of fleshy succulence with high but balanced zesty acidity adding crunchy deliciousness to every sip. Its flavours remind me of almonds, cedar and nectarines with a creamy and lingering finish. Top value for money. It also ticks the certified vegan friendly box. **18.5/20**

RRP $40 - $49.99

2016 Pask Declaration Chardonnay
RRP $40
Hancocks

Gimblett Gravels is an 800 hectare block of sun-drenched stony land in Hawke's Bay; a highly respected subregion in the Bay for late ripening red grapes and a tiny proportion of Chardonnay. This wine is made from the Mendoza clone of Chardonnay (also known as 'hen and chicken', due to variation in berry size from large to small, on the same bunch). It was aged for 11 months in French oak, mostly new, which comes through in its impressive full-bodied flavours of caramel, cedar and spice. **18.5/20**





2018 Smith & Sheth Cru Heretaunga Chardonnay

RRP $40

Negociants

Smith & Sheth is a new Hawke's Bay wine brand run by a highly experienced wine team of Brian Sheth and Steve Smith, Master of Wine, who search out great vineyard sites from which to make outstanding wines.This dry full-bodied example comes from the Heretaunga Plains in the Bay. It's a next-level wine from the first sip to the last tasty drop. It over-delivers and offers very good value. **17.5/20**

Te Mata Elston is one of New Zealand's iconic Chardonnays and has a long pedigree of great ageability.

2017 Vasse Felix Chardonnay

RRP $42

Negociants

Vasse Felix is one of the heroes of the Western Australian wine world and this Chardonnay shows why. Its dry, crisp and creamy flavours demonstrate deliciously why Chardonnay is the second most planted grape in Australia – it works in the country's diverse climate, especially where the cool nights in WA enable the grapes to retain zesty acidity, which adds great balance to this wine. **18.5/20**

2018 Te Mata Elston Chardonnay

RRP $42.99

EuroVintage

This is one of New Zealand's iconic Chardonnays and has a long pedigree of great ageability as well as being an approachable and delicious wine right now. It can and does age well for up to a decade, so if you're looking for a great wine to lay down in the white wine cellar, then this is it. It is also an outstanding wine to serve for a special occasion in large glasses and responds well to decanting. **19/20**

2018 Pegasus Bay Estate Chardonnay

RRP $44

EuroVintage

Pegasus Bay winery was founded in 1986 by Ivan and Chris Donaldson, whose four sons and partners now run the day-to-day operations in the Waipara Valley, North Canterbury. The free draining stony soils lie in the lee of the Teviotdale Range, which protects the region from strong easterly coastal winds, creating a favourable growing climate with hot days and cool nights. This enables the grapes to retain great acidity, which adds intense freshness to the wines, especially notable in the great whites from here. This wine was made from hand-harvested grapes whole bunch pressed into large French oak puncheons and fermented with wild yeasts then matured on yeast lees in barrel. The wine is creamy, dry, full-bodied and savoury with an incredibly refreshing taste of ripe, citrusy grapefruit and a lingering finish. **19/20**

2016 Taylors St Andrew Chardonnay

RRP $46.99

Taylor Brown

Clare Valley grapes from 15-year-old vines were whole bunch pressed to Louis Latour barrels for fermentation, which provides this richly flavoursome Chardonnay with its creaminess, depth and complexity. Lees stirring in the Burgundian oak accentuates the nutty, smooth flavours in this wine, which is bone dry and has an extremely modest, nicely balanced alcohol of 12% ABV. This is a great Chardonnay that shines with flavour and balance. **18.5/20**

RRP $50 and above

2016 Giesen The Clayvin Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP $56.95

Giesen

Clayvin is one of the most highly prized slices of wine real estate in New Zealand today. It was the first significant hillside vineyard to be planted in Blenheim (in 1993) and is now owned by the Giesen family. They have worked hard to look after the old vines, which are now 100% certified organic and farmed along guidelines leading towards biodynamic production, which may or may not be the end point of this outstanding site. Small quantities of Chardonnay are produced from here, aged in 'fuder' (large German oak barrels, which accentuate lees influence). This outstanding organically certified Chardonnay from 2016 represents a great year, thoughtful winemaking and a site that was ahead of its time when first planted – and now. This is a great wine for drinking now and for ageing for the medium to long term. **19/20**



West Auckland winery Kumeu River is one of New Zealand's most successful Chardonnay producers, highly regarded both internationally and here.

2016 Kumeu River Hunting Hill Chardonnay

RRP $59.99

Vintners NZ

This well-known West Auckland winery is one of New Zealand's most successful Chardonnay producers, highly regarded both on the international wine stage and here in New Zealand. The Brajkovich family run the vineyards, winemaking and marketing and own all the vineyards from which they make wine, which makes them something of a rarity in the modern Kiwi wine world: a fully estate-owned and run family business. This is my consistent pick of their extensive and impressive range of Chardonnays. It's full-bodied, dry and has great balance thanks to its refreshing acidity. It also ages well, for up to 10 years, potentially longer. **19/20**

2017 te Pā Reserve "St Leonards" Chardonnay

RRP $59.99

Beverage Brothers

This Marlborough Chardonnay has full malolactic fermentation during its 11 months in French oak (one third new), which provides its rich and creamy barrel ferment notes and buttery, nutty characters. It's made from mature Mendoza Chardonnay clones. It's a complex, full-bodied, dry white that drinks well now and can continue to age beautifully for the next seven to eight years, potentially longer. **18.5/20**

2018 Skeetfield Vineyard Chardonnay

RRP $59.99

Tony Bish Wines

Tony Bish has carved a niche for himself as king of Chardonnay in Hawke's Bay, where he makes wines from old vines, using interesting new (and old) winemaking methods to fine-tune their flavours, allowing fruit purity to shine. The Skeetfield Vineyard is home to old Mendoza Chardonnay. All the grapes in this wine were hand-harvested and whole bunch pressed with minimal settling, followed by 100% barrel, 100% indigenous yeast fermentation and maturation in 60% new Taransaud French oak. Lees stirring provides this wine with its outstanding freshness and full-bodied textural qualities. **18.5/20**

2018 Smith & Sheth Cru Howell Chardonnay

RRP $60

Negociants

This wine is made from a 70/30 combination of 20-year-old Chardonnay clones 15 and 95, which were hand-harvested then whole bunch pressed into a combo of new and aged French oak barriques. Aromas of white peach, pineapple and citrus integrate with toasty oak and the wine has a delicious concentration of flavour with a zesty, lingering finish. Drinks well now and will be even better in four to five years. **19/20**

2018 Smith & Sheth Cru Mangatahi Chardonnay

RRP $60

Negociants

20-year-old Chardonnay vines in Hawke's Bay's Mangatahi provided the grapes for this wine. It's dry, full-bodied and fresh, thanks to well-balanced acidity that accentuates the bold creamy and nutty flavours of the wine. It comes in at a relatively modest alcohol of 12.7% ABV and is full, rich, long and zingy. **18.5/20**

Ⓓ For distributor details see Distributor Index on page 84.

Pā Road



Proudly produced by te Pā Family Vineyards of Marlborough, the Pā Road range of wines is one of the fastest-growing brands in New Zealand.

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Joelle Thomson
Journalist, wine writer and author
joellethomson.com

NZSFW marks 25 years

There was cause for celebration just before lockdown as the New Zealand School of Food and Wine marked a quarter century – a milestone worthy of admiration, says *Joelle Thomson*

CAN YOU imagine having a job you loved so much that you never wanted to leave?

Can you also imagine celebrating 25 years in that same business, having watched your children grow from toddlers to becoming part of the company where you've trained more than 20,000 people?

That's become a reality for Celia Hay this year as she and her family celebrate a quarter of a century of the New Zealand School of Food & Wine.

Based in downtown Auckland for several years now, the business began life in Christchurch where it remained until the devastating earthquake of 2011. The damage to the school's building was so great that Hay had to move. The decision to relocate to Auckland was easy in rational, practical ways but was a big wrench for her family, who were all born and bred in Christchurch.

The Canterbury connection remains a strong one though. The family farm at Pigeon Bay on the Akaroa Peninsula is still their home and they visit it regularly. The land has a special place in Hay's heart; she considers herself the *kaitiaki* (guardian) as it's been in the family since 1843.

Hay first opened the doors to the New Zealand School of Food & Wine (NZSFW) in 1995 in Victoria Street, Christchurch, and has seen over 20,000 students since then. That's no mean feat in a country the size of New Zealand, where small businesses can boom and then go bust due to low numbers, strong competition and lack of planning. But if anyone knows how to plan for the future, it's Celia Hay.

Her resumé contains an impressive list of qualifications – from a Master's degree in education to the highest level in the Wine & Spirit Education Trust wine qualifications, the Level 4 Diploma, with numerous other credentials in-between.



"My goal from those very early years was to develop better courses and qualifications for the hospitality industry, which not only met the changing demands of employers, but also inspired young people to become more curious about our world," says Hay.

"Sensing and identifying aromas, discovering new ingredients, mastering cookery techniques, learning to taste and savour fine food and unravelling the customer service experience are all part of what we teach. Above all, I wanted to encourage people to climb the career ladder as baristas, chefs, general managers, sommeliers and also as entrepreneurs, setting up their own businesses. I felt at the start, as I still do, that we needed to bring more professionalism to the sector so people have a better understanding of what and why they were doing these tasks."

> "I felt back at the start, as I still do today, that we needed to bring more professionalism to the sector so that people have a better understanding of what and why they were doing these tasks."

In March, Hay and her family celebrated 25 years in business at their Auckland headquarters. It was also a chance to celebrate the newest qualification – the new NZQA-accredited micro-credential, Certificate in New Zealand Wine. Hay is hopeful the Certificate will provide an opportunity for staff in restaurants, winery cellar doors, wine sales and marketing, as well as wine lovers, to learn more about local wines.

So let's raise a glass of a great New Zealand wine to those first 25 years – and toast the next 25 too.

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only with the alcohol gently removed.

Enjoy the world's first alcohol-removed Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

*Contains not more than 0.5% Alcohol/Volume

Top Picks

Five sensational new releases selected by wine writer *Joelle Thomson*



2016 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Parallèle 45 Côtes du Rhône
RRP $25
Dhall & Nash

This famous French wine company has gone green – gaining organic certification for one of its highest volume wines from one of the best vintages in the last 50 years, possibly even longer. The 2016 vintage in the Rhône Valley was superb and takes wines like this to the next level in so many ways: it's full-bodied, velvety and incredibly weighty thanks to significantly more Syrah in the blend this time round. It deserves to be decanted and served in a large glass. **19/20**



2015 Prophet's Rock Retrospect Pinot Noir
RRP $133
Prophet's Rock Wines

This new release highlights the ripe flavours, robust full body and high quality of great Pinot Noir from the Bendigo area of Central Otago. All the grapes in this wine come from Bendigo and were hand-harvested and wild yeast fermented with minimal pump-overs to reduce over extraction in this already powerful wine. It's dry, savoury and weighty, without being over-oaked, thanks to 20% new oak in the maturation process. Sealed with a Diam. **18.5/20**



2015 Pio Cesare Barolo
RRP $106.99
Sapori d'Italia

"Please don't call it 'regular'", says the front label of this classic top shelf Italian red from one of Piedmont's great wine producers. The fruit purity, definition of flavour and earthy, savoury characters of truffle, red fruit and spice all combine to make this one of the world's great reds. It was a privilege to taste. Now I need to dig deep to own some. If you can, snap it up. **19/20**



2018 The Boneline Barebone Chardonnay
RRP $25.99
The Boneline

This new release from The Boneline is a great white that relies on ripe fruit flavours and lingering time on lees (yeast cells) for its flavoursome full body and style, rather than oak. It's 100% unoaked but not called that, since the taste of the wine implies it's had plenty of oak maturation, thanks to its gorgeous powerful flavours, savoury spicy notes, weight and length. I love this outstanding Chardonnay. **18.5/20**



2016 The Boneline Riverbone Sauvignon Blanc
RRP $28
The Boneline

Next level Sauvignon Blanc, here we come. This wine shows what great Sauvignon is all about. It was 100% hand-harvested and wild fermented in barrels for an extensive period, hence this 2016 vintage is newly released.
Its juicy acidity provides the wine with a long finish and it tastes far younger than four years old. Beautiful, pure and savoury. A divine dry white. **18.5/20**

For distributor details see Distributor Index on page 84.



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The Barossan showcases the superb fruit sourced from the many fabled sub-regions across the Barossa Valley, a quintessential expression of Barossa Shiraz.

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RRP $24.99

Contact your Giesen Group representative or phone 03 344 6270

Wither Hills launches Syrah and Merlot



WITHER HILLS has released its first-ever Syrah and Merlot varietals, expanding its range with the wines from Hawke's Bay, rather than the brand's Marlborough home.

Matt Large, Head Winemaker at Wither Hills, says the region was the obvious choice for the new wines. "While we've experimented with a few different wines in small batches over the years, it's clear that the Hawke's Bay is the best region for creating Merlots and Syrahs of depth and richness.

"We've created a warmly textured Merlot, matured under different oak regimes over 18 months to bring out vibrant dark plum flavours, with nuances of cigar box and chocolate. To create our Syrah, we gently de-stem and ferment the fruit before an extended maceration period to soften the tannins, resulting in a varietal packed with notes of dark fruit, pepper and spice," he says.

For the launch, Wither Hills commissioned Napier-based ceramic artist Holly Morgan of morganmade to create an exclusive range of tableware (pictured left) that integrates raw materials from the Te Awanga region, home to some of the grapes in the wines.

The Wither Hills x morganmade platters and tableware will be available to purchase online from Wither Hills and at cellar door. A consumer promotion with New World (North Island stores) will also run for the month of July.

Leila McCracken, Senior Brand Manager of Wither Hills, says morganmade was the perfect choice to launch the new wines with something special for customers. "At Wither Hills, our wine is 'Made Beautifully'. It's this commitment to quality that is at the heart of our brand and all we do. With that in mind, it made sense to work with an artisan like Holly to celebrate the new red wines. The passion and incredible care she has in her craft are values shared by our team, who are also inspired by the unique character of New Zealand's land," says McCracken.

The Wither Hills Hawke's Bay Merlot and Syrah will also be the first products to go to market wearing the new-look copper-foil label, a special homage to the brand's origins and spiritual home.

The Wither Hills Hawke's Bay Merlot 2018 and Syrah 2018 are RRP $21.99

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Yalumba Rare and Fine



The latest releases in the Yalumba Rare and Fine range of wines are now available through distributor Negociants NZ. Jessica Hill-Smith, brand manager for the specialised portfolio (and daughter of proprietor Robert Hill-Smith), was in New Zealand in March for trade tastings of the wines, which represent the best examples of the varieties and blends that Yalumba produces from its South Australian sites.

Highlights included the refined and elegant Octavius Shiraz 2015, made from four vineyard sites with vines averaging 100 years old; the Virgilius Viognier (a rising star for Yalumba and with the potential to age for 10-15 years) and the latest releases of The Caley (2013 and 2014) – regarded as the pinnacle of Yalumba's red winemaking.

The collection includes:

- The Virgilius Viognier 2017 (RRP $50)
- The Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 (RRP $48)
- The Octavius Shiraz 2015 (RRP $98)
- The Signature Cabernet & Shiraz 2015 (RRP $50)
- The Caley Cabernet & Shiraz 2013 (RRP $349)
- The Caley Cabernet & Shiraz 2014 (RRP $349)

Negociants

Tohu Awatere Valley 2019 tops Marlborough Sav Blancs list



TOHU AWATERE Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2019, from Māori-family owned Tohu Wines, has been rated the number one Marlborough 2019 Sauvignon Blanc by influential independent wine review site, The Real Review.

Rated 95 points out of a possible 100 by New Zealand Master of Wine Bob Campbell and his Real Review team, Tohu Awatere Valley Sauvignon Blanc topped the list of 115 Marlborough Sauvignon Blancs from the 2019 vintage.

Tohu chief winemaker Bruce Taylor says they're proud to have topped a list that includes so many other outstanding wines. "2019 was a dream vintage with a very dry summer and autumn giving us the luxury of very clean, perfectly ripe fruit. The grapes for this wine are grown over the whole length of the Awatere Valley, from our high-altitude Whenua Awa vineyard all the way down to the vineyards of our growers around the Dashwood and Redwood Pass areas. The subtle flavour differences found across the Awatere Valley meshed together beautifully in 2019. We've just started blending our 2020 Tohu Awatere Valley Sauvignon Blanc, and we're aiming to craft another stunning wine to match the benchmark set by the 2019 vintage," says Taylor.

Sourced entirely from vineyards located in Marlborough's spectacular Awatere Valley, Tohu Awatere Sauvignon Blanc is from the Tohu Manaaki range of wines, which are crafted to be approachable, contemporary wines for sharing and enjoying with food.

Kono

Giesen innovates with 0% Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc

FAMILY-OWNED WINERY Giesen has launched the world's first alcohol-removed Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, now at retail in New Zealand and launching internationally in coming months, starting with Australia and the US.

While there have been growing numbers of alcohol-free wines new to market in recent months, Giesen 0% - Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is the first from New Zealand's most famous wine-producing region.

Giesen says the new wine goes through the same winemaking process as its full-strength Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, with the alcohol-free wine achieved using spinning cone technology to separate the fragrance and alcohol from the wine. Once the alcohol is removed, the distinctive distilled aroma unique to Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is added back into the wine.



Giesen says this advanced form of distillation allows its winemaking team to handle the wine gently, maintaining the integrity of the flavour palate and texture throughout the process.

The removal of the alcohol also gives Giesen 0% - Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc its own unique taste profile. While varietally expressive, it is much lighter than its full-strength counterpart and boasts citrus flavours with blackcurrant and passionfruit notes.

The release of the new wine taps into the global 'sober curious' trend, which is forecast to rise, and as part of the NZ Lighter wine initiative, Giesen believes the no-alcohol segment of lighter wines will become a significant part of the Lighter wine category.

"There is a growing trend towards non- alcoholic drinks and sales around the world are growing rapidly as consumers look to reduce their alcohol intake for a wide variety of reasons," says Giesen Chief Winemaker Nikolai St George. "An added bonus is that Giesen 0% - Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is super low in calories, with a 125ml glass containing 85% fewer calories than a full-strength wine."

Giesen



The Glenfiddich range has received more awards since 2000 than any other single malt Scotch whisky in two of the world's most prestigious competitions, the *International Wine and Spirits Competition* and the *International Spirits Challenge*.



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FRESH flavours

The punters are back, so treat them to something new from the fridge or tap





(Note: Beers and ciders are listed by % ABV.)

Bavaria Holland 0.0% Premium Original

0.0% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $8.99

Beverage Brothers

Swinkels Family Brewers have been brewing their Bavaria Premium Original 0.0% since 1978 (although despite the name, it's actually from Holland) and this great example of an alcohol-free beer presents just like its 'regular' counterparts. It pours golden in the glass and the natural malt sweetness balances the bitterness.

Bavaria IPA 0.0%

0.0% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $8.99

Beverage Brothers

This IPA is one of the latest additions to the 0.0% ABV range from the Swinkels Family Brewers in the Netherlands and has an almost grassy aroma, with hop and citrus character.

Bavaria Wit 0.0%

0.0% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $8.99

Beverage Brothers

The Wit beer is a great alternative for fans of this distinctive style. It's light in colour, cloudy, and with refreshing fruit and spice tones. The aroma is intense wheat-driven banana and there's a classic wheat beer taste with the banana character evident through the haze. It also ranked in the Top 30 beers in the New World Beer & Cider Awards 2020.

DB Export Gold 0.0%

0% ABV, 330ml 12-pack RRP $18.99

DB

That classic taste of Export Gold is even easier to drink with the addition of the new 0.0% version. Much like the original Gold, this one has the classic gold hue and easy drinking charm that has made Export Gold a New Zealand staple. As with original Export Gold, the colder the better.

The new Bavaria Wit 0.0% was ranked in the Top 30 in the New World Beer & Cider Awards 2020.

Bavaria 3.3

3.3% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $10.99

Beverage Brothers

This is the mid-strength offering from Dutch beer brand Bavaria, created as a lower alcohol version of its Premium Pilsner. It has good body and the bitterness you'd expect from a regular Pilsner with additional hop character. A great option for those looking for moderation.

Deep Creek LoCAL

3.5% ABV, 330ml RRP $3.50-$3.99 - also in keg

Hancocks

LoCAL is Deep Creek's new low calorie, low carb IPA (93 calories and 6.6g carbs in a can). It has a Pilsner malt base with a huge dry hop, making it a refreshing full-flavour option for those after a beer to fit with active lifestyles. Where many lite options also go lite on flavour, Deep Creek's version maintains the hoppiness of a big craft beer with the benefits of reduced calories and carbs.

Eagle Brewing Whitecaps Hazy Pale

4.2% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $22.99

Eagle Brewing (Hop & Vine from 1 July)

This hazy pale ale from Kaiapoi brewery Eagle takes its name from the foamy crested waves formed due to a dissipation of energy forced into a wave. It has a big complex burst of tropical fruit, with notes of sweet coconut and juicy peach.

Mac's Ballpark XPA

4.3% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $14.99

Lion

This ale has a full, citrusy hop character but remains a light and refreshing pale ale with great thirst-quenching abilities. It's extra pale in colour with a light bready malt character and just enough sweetness to support the delicate bitterness of the US Citra hops.

Emerson's Underground
4.5% ABV, 330ml RRP $4.49/6-pack RRP $23.99
Emerson's

Emerson's describes this new release in its core range as a tribute to Dunedin's South Coast Boardriders, a group that has been part of Otago's surfing scene since 1966. It's a crisp, clean lager with a hint of bitterness.

Mack Isbjørn
4.5% ABV, 500ml RRP $3.49
Q Liquid

Norwegian brewery Mack's biggest seller is their Isbjørn Pilsner. The first distinctive note is the can: a big blue 500mL number with a roaring polar bear on it really sets the scene. Isbjørn is brewed with cold, pure Arctic water. It has a German pilsner style to it that is clean and refreshing with some hops and moderate bitterness. A great thirst quencher or session beer, this should suit most Kiwi Pilsner lovers' palates.

Mack Isbjørn Lite Gluten-Free
4.5% ABV, 500ml RRP $3.49
Q Liquid

This is the "guilt-free" version of Isbjørn, with 70% fewer carbohydrates and 30% less sugar than the original. Taste-wise, it's virtually the same beer but with a slightly lighter, more Asian beer feel – like a far northern Asahi or Tiger beer – but still preserving the unique Arctic flavour.

Mack Arctic was the first beer to reach the North Pole on a surface expedition, carried by a Norwegian team.

Emerson's Sonkei
4.6% ABV, 330ml RRP $5.49
Emerson's

'Sonkei' translates from Japanese as 'respect'. Emerson's says its seasonal release version of a Japanese lager has therefore followed the traditional process by extracting only the first run of the wort to get the purest, finest, and most flavourful ingredients. Sonkei is super-clean, crisp, smooth, and dry.

Deep Creek Haze
4.7% ABV, 330ml RRP $4.49 - also in keg
Hancocks

This ale follows in the juicy style of Deep Creek's previous popular Hazy IPAs, but at a more sessionable 4.7% ABV. Haze has well balanced low bitterness, is light-bodied and easy drinking with flavours of stonefruit, mango and orange.

Mack Arctic
4.7% ABV, 500ml RRP $3.49
Q Liquid

Mack is the northernmost brewery in the world and their ales are brewed under the Northern Lights, with cold and pure Arctic water. Mack Arctic was also the first beer to reach the North Pole on a surface expedition, carried by a Norwegian team. It's a light lager with a beautiful golden color and a fresh aroma of flowers, malt and hops. The brewers recommend it is served (unsurprisingly) ice cold.

Boundary Road Brewery 'Polar Beer' XPA
4.8% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $12.99
Asahi NZ

An easy drinking pale ale with a light malt base and punchy hop flavour. Notes of citrus and malt, with biscuity undertones.



Emerson's Trainspotter
4.8% ABV, 330ml RRP $5.49
Emerson's

Brewer Richard Emerson has a long-standing love affair with trains. He even has one in his back garden (true story). This seasonal release hazy pale ale is a tribute to his love of locomotives. It's hoppy, juicy and tropical with a hint of citrus.

Boundary Road Brewery 'Haze of Our Lives' Hazy Pale Ale
5% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $12.99
Asahi NZ

A full-flavoured hazy pale ale brimming with ale and wheat malts and packed full of aromatic hops (Simcoe, Riwaka, Citra, Mosaic, Amarillo hop oil). Lightly hazed, it's true to style with a tropical, juicy fruit aroma lingering over a heavyset malt body.

Bronx Brewing YTB Lager
5% ABV, 330ml 12-pack RRP $28.99
Beverage Brothers

The front of the can says 'Bronx' but the side says St Albans, Christchurch. YTB stands for 'Yeah The Boys' and that's exactly the vibe they're going for with this easy-drinking, full-bodied, sessionable lager in its cool silver can. Let's leave it to them to set the scene: "Necking a couple of coldies with ya brothers or dogging the boys at home with the middy, YTB will bring you back to where you'd rather be."

Emerson's Pale Ale
5% ABV, 330ml Single RRP $4.49/6-pack RRP $23.99
Emerson's

Just like it says on the can, this is a Pale Ale from Emerson's and it's the new signature style joining the brewery's core range. A blend of American hops gives it the signature citrus flavour, and late dry hopping lends a tropical fruit aroma.

Sprig & Fern Harvest Pilsner
5% ABV, 888ml RRP $11.99
Sprig & Fern

Nelson brewery Sprig & Fern has the added advantage of being smack bang in the middle of New Zealand's hop central – so this fresh hop Harvest Pilsner is about as fresh as it gets. The brewery team says the hops are selected for peak aroma and flavour, picked and then bagged up by hand and driven the few kilometres to the brewery. The beer has a bold citrus aroma and tropical notes with a crisp, dry finish.

Parrotdog Sheree Feijoa Sour
5.1% ABV, 440ml RRP $8.99
Parrotdog

The autumnal Kiwi favourite – the humble feijoa – is at the heart of this new release from Parrotdog. It's a pale, perfumed and refreshingly sour beer that highlights the fruit's distinct 'pineapple guava' character.

Eagle Brewing Raptor APA
5.2% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $22.99
Eagle Brewing (Hop & Vine from 1 July)

Eagle Brewing is a brewery from Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch. They have been brewing since 2010 but are really catching attention now with their new Raptor APA. Pouring a rich, coppery brown it has a slight maltiness combined with hoppy bitterness. It's a powerful brew but goes down very well. Would combine well with salty snacks or rich meats like salami.

The autumnal Kiwi favourite – the feijoa – is at the heart of the new Sheree Feijoa Sour from Wellington brewery Parrotdog.





Eagle Brewing Untamed Pilsner

5.2% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $22.99

Eagle Brewing (Hop & Vine from 1 July)

Intense aroma and flavour mark this new Pilsner from Eagle Brewing, which has pungently aromatic gooseberry characters, lush passionfruit and tropical fruit overtones.

Tuatara Pacific IPA

5.2% ABV, 330ml mixed 6-pack RRP $22.99 – also in keg

Tuatara

As the name suggests, the flavours in this Pacific IPA from Tuatara (part of its new IPA trio) draw on the islands with notes of tropical fruit and passionfruit. A bright, zingy experience, this is nevertheless a more sessionable IPA at a manageable 5.2% (compared with its 6.1% and 6.9% siblings). Would make a great accompaniment to rich meat dishes like pulled pork sliders. Aloha.

Good George Campfire Toasted Marshmallow Stout

5.5% ABV, 946ml RRP $15.99

Good George Brewing

Perfect for the winter nights, Good George's Toasted Marshmallow Stout does just what it says on the label. The brew pours black in the glass and the nose has delicious notes of chocolate and roasted malts. In the mouth there's more chocolate and the promised marshmallow makes an appearance. It's the beer version of the American campfire treat Smores. Recommended.

Good George Hazy Pale Ale

5.5% ABV, 946ml RRP $14.99

Good George Brewing

Arriving in the classic Good George growler (946ml) this hazy pale ale is a juicy, slightly piney number that goes down the hatch far too easily. This would make a great campfire beer with its easy-drinking tropical aromas of mango and orange zest on top of malty and bready tones. The slight bitterness refreshes and sends you back for more. Lucky it's a big bottle.

Mack Isbjørn Gull Lager

5.5% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $15.99

Q Liquid

Our favourite of the new Norwegian Mack range, Isbjørn Gull is a Pilsner with a little more strength and a little more flavour. It pours a slightly darker straw yellow and has hints of herbs and hops while retaining the crisp, clean Arctic style of the range. Ideal as an après-ski thirst-quencher.

Mac's Apparition Hazy IPA

5.6% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $14.99

Lion

Here's an IPA with plenty of fruit character. The palate bursts with juicy tropical and citrus flavours but the finish is, as the brewers describe it, "eerily smooth". Hazy IPAs are the flavour of the month in craft beer circles as they're packed with flavour but retain their ease of drinking thanks to the haze rounding out the flavour profile. The spooky purple can on Apparition looks great and will be a favourite at the grown-up Halloween parties.

Sawmill Chocolate Stout

5.6% ABV, 500ml RRP $11.99

Sawmill Brewing

This smooth, chocolatey stout from Matakana brewery Sawmill is brewed using certified fair-trade raw cacao nibs from Peru. Rolled oats add to the velvety texture. The perfect drop on chilly winter evenings or an excellent alternative to dessert.

Campfire Toasted Marshmallow Stout from Hamilton brewery Good George is the beer version of the delicious American campfire treat Smores.

Parrotdog Birdseye Hazy IPA
5.8% ABV, 330ml 6-pack RRP $21.50
Parrotdog

Wellington brewery Parrotdog continues to make accessible beers with wide appeal and their Birdseye Hazy IPA, which is a brand new addition to the core range, is no exception. This is a mellow and soft IPA with notes of citrus and stonefruit. Would pair well with the smokiness of chipotle or bring out the hop flavours with crisp vegetables and salads.

Mac's Brewjolais
6% ABV, 440ml RRP $7.99
Lion

A collaboration with Little Creatures, Mac's Brewjolais sees the return of a craft favourite. The beer has been "fresh hopped" with hops picked straight off the vine and flown to the Little Creatures brewery in Hobsonville, Auckland. It has a resinous hop aroma and notes of tropical fruits, nectarine and mandarin zest. A medium-bodied beer with some juiciness, but a dry finish accentuated by some lingering bitterness.

Parrotdog Rhys Coconut Hazy IPA
6.0% ABV, 440ml RRP $8.99
Parrotdog

Here's an interesting drop. The Rhys Coconut Hazy IPA is just that: a hazy, soft, pale ale with a big aroma of coconut and more on the palate. The haze and the coconut combine for a coconut milk-like effect and this, mixed with the citrus of the pale ale, makes it taste like the beer equivalent of a piña colada. It's really good! Serve with a squeeze of lime. Recommended.

Tuatara East Coast IPA
6.1% ABV, 330ml mixed 6-pack RRP $22.99 – also in keg
Tuatara

The Tuatara East Coast Hazy IPA is an easy-drinking drop with a beautiful, soft haze. Aromas of citrus and tropical fruit turn to more intense flavours on the palate. A slight sweetness too but still very much an IPA, this is a perfect end-of-day beer.

Deep Creek Wildwood Roeselare
6.9% ABV, 750ml RRP $29.99
Hancocks

This barrel-aged sour red ale is part of Deep Creek's Wildwood project. It's a Flanders Red style ale with distinct notes of black cherry, redcurrant and hints of vanilla. Full body, lightly tannic with a dry finish. Deep reddish brown from the blend of malts, this beer has additional layers of complexity from the barrels in which it has been aged.

Tuatara West Coast IPA
6.9% ABV, 330ml mixed 6-pack RRP $22.99 – also in keg
Tuatara

Tuatara's West coast IPA is a resinous, piney little number with a hint of citrus fruit on the back of the palate. The mysterious green label is based around the Tuatara's third eye – beasts of mystery and magic abound. It's an intriguing little IPA that walks the line of hoppinesss and drinkability with skill.

Deep Creek Wildwood Roeselare is a full-bodied barrel-aged sour red ale in the Flanders Red style.

Garage Project Sunrise Valley Hazy IPA
8% ABV, 440ml RRP $10.50
Garage Project

This is part of Garage Project's 'Home and Away' series – a range of rebrews that revives some of their best overseas collaborations. This double dry hopped double hazy IPA was first brewed in collaboration with Massachusetts brewers Trillium. Sunrise Valley was created using a hop-free boil and massive dry hop addition of New Zealand Nelson Sauvin and Rakau hops.





Sawmill Baltic Porter
8% ABV, 500ml RRP $11.99
Sawmill Brewing

A robust, smooth Porter with subtle roasted malt notes and aromas of dark fruit, toffee and berries.

Garage Project Engeltjes Pis
8.5% ABV, 750ml RRP $28.99
Garage Project

A barrel-aged sour red ale that's inspired by the Flanders Red style. Brewed with generous use of dark malts, then aged in a mixture of wine and whiskey barrels to create a rich red-brown beer with lifted notes of tart fruit, cherry, plum, vanilla and dark chocolate.

CIDER

Orchard Thieves Lower Sugar Apple Cider
4.3% ABV, 330ml 12-pack RRP $23.99
DB

Orchard Thieves is answering the consumer call for less carbs and less sugar with their new Lower Sugar Apple Cider. With a sweet nose, this is a cider with lots of juicy fruit flavour and a rounded finish. You wouldn't know it was sugar-reduced from tasting, as it packs all the flavour of their other offerings.

Peckham's New Wave Farmhouse is intensely aromatic with notes of oak and is a great entry to the Peckham's world.

Good George Apple Pie and Ice Cream Cider
4.5% ABV, 946ml RRP $13.99
Good George Brewing

Here's a sweet little number that will delight cider drinkers and dessert lovers alike. It begins with apples and cinnamon spice perfectly reminiscent of Mum's apple crumble. The ice cream is more subtle but comes at the end in a hint of vanilla creaminess that, coupled with the apples, really captures the classic dish. Even though it's served cold, this cider comes across as something of a winter warmer.

Peckham's New Wave Farmhouse
5.5% ABV, 330ml RRP $4.99
Peckham's

While this cider has the intense aromatic style of Peckham's ciders, there's a sweetness that will open it up to a wider more 'conventional' cider audience. With that, there is also complexity from the variety of cider apples that have been used: Yarlington Mill, Major, 21C, Tom Putt, Kingston Black, and Harry Master's Jersey. The wild fermentation has given this brew notes of oak and a countryside muskiness. Recommended as a great entry into the Peckham's world.

Peckham's Harry Master's Jersey
6.5% ABV, 330ml RRP $5.99/750ml RRP $19.99
Peckham's

The flavour profile ramps up a little in this single variety cider made from Harry Master's Jersey cider apples – a 19th century cider apple from Yarlington, Somerset. It was fermented cold and slow with wild yeasts. When served cold the cider is more tart, but when left to warm a little, delicate notes of oak, spice and sweetness emerge.

Peckham's Kingston Black
7.6% ABV, 330ml RRP $5.99/750ml RRP $19.99
Peckham's

Kingston Black is a small dark red apple widely grown in the West Country cider-producing region of the UK. Peckham's ferments it very slowly over winter and into early spring, which brings out its spice and vanilla notes that the apples have here. A deliciously drinkable drop with a slight muskiness and hint of sweetness among the dryness.

For distributor details see Distributor Index on page 84.

Cheers!
cheers.org.nz

NEW RELEASES



MUSIC TO YOUR MOUTH

SINCE 1981
MAC'S



Michael Donaldson
Beer Writer of the Year, journalist and author
beernation.co.nz

Regions raise the bar

As Chair of Judges for the New World Beer & Cider Awards, *Michael Donaldson* finds that small regional breweries are making their mark with some truly great drops in the 2020 competition



THE CONTINUED growth in New Zealand's regional breweries was one of the huge talking points from this year's New World Beer and Cider Awards.

The beers and ciders that ranked in the Top 30 are promoted in stores throughout June, and the list for 2020 features beer from the veritable who's who of New Zealand brewing: Garage Project, Epic, Behemoth, Parrotdog, Panhead, Good George, Sawmill, 8 Wired, McLeod's, Three Boys, Kereru, Bach, Boneface, and Sprig & Fern. All the big names are represented in the elite list.

But equally impressive is the showing from New Zealand's smaller regional breweries. Brave Brewing and Zeelandt from Hawke's Bay, Lakeman from Taupō, Sunshine from Gisborne, Renaissance from Blenheim and Emporium from Kaikoura were all judged to be among the country's best, alongside cideries Zeffer (Hawke's Bay) and Peckham's (Neudorf Valley).

Drilling down further into the Top-100 highly commended list there are breweries from Taranaki, Amberley, Kapiti Coast, Whakatane, Mt Maunganui, Waipara and Motueka.

Quality is not the sole domain of the big cities, that's for sure. And in a post-COVID-19 world where domestic tourism will play a big part in our holiday choices, it's clear you can go pretty much anywhere in New Zealand and be guaranteed of finding quality beer. And what good stories there are behind some of these breweries.

Take Lakeman. Sheep farmer James Cooper and his wife Elissa have a small piece of land above Lake Taupō. A few years back, the Lake Taupō catchment area was the first to implement a system that limited stock numbers to control the amount of nitrogen going into the lake.

The Coopers had started thinking about diversifying when James discovered beer, through his namesake brewery, Cooper's in Australia. A lightbulb went off and he literally taught himself how to brew – going from complete novice in 2013 to a multi-award winner just seven years later. And he brews all his beer with water drawn from an aquifer 80m under his farm. The water is

> "It's clear you can go pretty much anywhere in New Zealand and be guaranteed of finding quality beer."

untreated and unfiltered and of the highest quality. As a result, Lakeman Hopadelic IPA is very much a New Zealand-made product: Canterbury-grown malt from Gladfield, Nelson hops, and Taupō water.

At the end of the Napier-Taupō road in the Esk Valley, Chris Barber's Zeelandt is a brewery plonked down among the vines. He makes classical European styles and his Black Monk dark lager is perfect for these winter months. In Hastings, Brave Brewing have an underground following thanks to the award-winning beers of former home brew champion Matt Smith. But most of it is sold in the immediate region and is rarely seen in the bigger cities. That will change with Brave Brewing People's Pils now widely available.

Heading north from Napier, Sunshine Brewing has been a Gisborne institution for more than 30 years. Their Gisborne Gold lager is part of New Zealand craft beer folklore. The brewery got new owners in 2013, and in 2018 work began on upgrading the brewhouse and moving it closer to the beach, and new branding launched in 2019. Brewer Dave Huff came on board two years back and has elevated the beers to stunning levels. Dave is an inventive brewer and the taproom is worth a visit to try some out-there styles – but the two Sunshine beers in the Top-30 are a classic stout and a bright, sparkling hoppy Summer Ale.

In Blenheim, Renaissance Brewing was on the brink of collapse a few years ago before Brandhouse bought the brewery and resurrected things. The beers are getting a second life too, reflected in the fact their Elemental Porter is part of the Top-30. It's a beer that's been around for a long time but has never tasted better.

Finally, down the road in Kaikoura is Emporium Brewing, which was hard hit by the big earthquakes of 2016. Their award-winning Drop Cover Hold Tropical Sour is not only a great beer but the label also carries some useful safety advice if you're ever caught in a big shake.

Check out the full results of the 2020 New World Beer & Cider Awards on page 59.

When the Northern Lights dance along the sky, this beer is brewed with pure Arctic Water from the majestic Lyngen Alps at 69° north.

- Taste the Arctic -

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Tuatara launches new IPA trio

KAPITI COAST brewery Tuatara has launched three new beers – all new-world variations of the popular IPA style – in a 330ml bottle mixed six-pack format and in keg.

The trio includes a new East Coast Hazy IPA, West Coast IPA and Pacific (NZ and Australia) IPA. The look, aromas and flavours are distinctive and intended to showcase the different hops and styles from the respective regions. The Tuatara IPA Mixed Pack contains two of each beer at RRP $22.99.

"From the popularity of our current mixed six-pack, we know that people have a thirst for comparing a variety of flavours so we've focused our attention on the distinctive and popular new world hop varieties coming out of the US, New Zealand and Australia," says Tuatara Head Brewer, Paul Roigard.

Tuatara Founder, Carl Vasta, says that the IPA style deserves its place as the number one craft beer style in New Zealand. "It is no surprise that IPA is New Zealand's most popular craft beer style – currently one in every five litres of craft beer sold is an IPA style. The IPA style in craft has grown a whopping 26% in the last year*, and I wouldn't be surprised if we see this growth continue," he says.

**Nielsen Total Scanned Beer Market MAT to 17 February 2020*



NEW – Tuatara IPA trio (also in keg)

Pacific IPA (5.2% ABV): Tropical fruit flavours synonymous with New Zealand and Australian hops and with a moderate bitterness.
East Coast Hazy IPA (6.1% ABV): Big citrus and tropical fruit US hop flavours, with the lower bitterness and creamy mouthfeel typical of this hugely popular American style.
West Coast IPA (6.9% ABV): At the more bitter end of the spectrum, with the citrus and piney characteristics made popular on the west coast of America.

Tuatara

Birdseye joins Parrotdog core range

Parrotdog has added a brand new beer to its core range: Birdseye is a Hazy IPA at 5.8% ABV and available in 330ml cans (6-pack RRP $21.50).

Parrotdog



New formats for Speights Summit Ultra

Speight's Summit Ultra Low Carb Lager is now available in 330ml cans and 745ml quarts. The two new formats for the lager with 75% less carbs join the initial 330mL bottles.

12pk-330ml Cans – RRP $22.99
12pk-745ml Quarts – RRP $40.99

Lion





Triple can release from Mac's

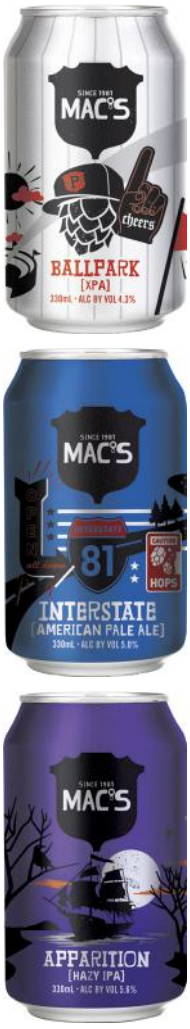
MAC'S HAS added three new 330ml cans to its range – with popular Interstate joining brand new releases Ballpark and Apparition. The cans are available in 6-packs for RRP $14.99.

Mac's Ballpark XPA (4.3% ABV) is full of citrusy hop character; a light and refreshing pale ale, while Mac's Apparition Hazy IPA (5.6% ABV) has a fruity burst of tropical and citrus flavours followed by a smooth finish.

Interstate APA (5% ABV) is made with Mosaic and Citra hops from the US Pacific Northwest and showcases iconic pine and grapefruit flavours and a slightly lighter malt base than an American IPA.

Ben Fisher from Mac's says they're thrilled to add the cans to the Mac's range. "Cans are great. They chill quicker and they're more portable. They also keep the beer fresh, protecting it from light and oxygen that can age the beer prematurely."

Lion



SHOWCASE

New beer and cider bottles from Saverglass

French specialist glass company Saverglass has expanded its range of bottles for beer and cider. The burgeoning global craft beer and cider movement, and ever increasing enquiries for these bottles for use by this market, has led to demand for new and interesting bottles to raise shelf presence for brands and to reflect the premium nature of these products.

Fresh edgy designs and the new Flip Top range extend the Saverglass range, which was previously more traditionally champagne orientated, though to be sure, there have always been the avante-garde who have chosen Saverglass for their beer and cider.

Saverglass has responded to this niche use for its exceptional range of sparkling wine bottles and is delighted to offer its range to this market. With bottle capacities ranging from 200ml to 6 litres, Saverglass has something for every craft brewer or cidermaker.

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Sawmill aims for late July re-opening

MATAKANA BREWERY Sawmill is coming to the end of its rebuild following a fire in October last year that caused extensive damage to its brewery, restaurant and offices. Sawmill says it hopes to have the Brewery and Smoko Room up and running again by the end of July. The rebuild has a sustainable focus with repurposed, reusable and recycled product being used. The building size has been expanded so the brewery can increase capacity and Sawmill is also installing silos for its Gladfield malt, which the brewery says will mean around 12,000 fewer recycled plastic sacks used each year.



Mac's Brewjolais is back for 2020

A dash from Motueka to Auckland just days before lockdown meant that teams from Mac's and Little Creatures could create fresh hop beer Brewjolais with hops picked only hours earlier.

Brewjolais was first created in 2006 at Mac's Wellington brewery and brewed annually for five years running until Mac's brewing relocated to Christchurch and the 2011 earthquakes interrupted the tradition, but Brewjolais has returned for 2020.

Mac's distributor Lion says the beer was brewed at Little Creatures Brewery in Hobsonville to take full advantage of the unique brew kit which includes a hop back, to get the most out of the whole hop cones. Little Creatures Brewer, Udo van Deventer, says the end result is an unfiltered beer that retains as much character of the hops as possible. "It's a delicious medium bodied Mac's with some juiciness, but a dry finish accentuated by some lingering bitterness that cleanses the palate".

The beer was canned on site and is available now.

Mac's Brewjolais (6% ABV) 440ml can RRP $7.99

Ⓓ Lion



SHOWCASE

SnackaChangi – the perfect partner



The makers of Wakachangi beer have created a new range of premium potato chips – SnackaChangi Chips – launching nationwide in June and perfect for pairing with the popular Kiwi lager.

Made by Griffin's, the potato chips are available in three flavours: Salted, BBQ, and Vinegar & Salt. The retro-style packaging features the beer's heroic Great Uncle Kenny character along with its tongue-in-cheek Kiwi humour, with promotional lines such as: "Three of the greatest flavours ever developed since 1649"; "Crafted just like Great Uncle Kenny made them back in the day" and "Seasoned in the traditional ways of the original Wakachangi Monks in Tuscany."

Wakachangi beer was created by TV and radio personality Leigh Hart in 2016 and is now stocked in supermarkets and liquor stores across New Zealand, and sold nationwide in Australia through Woolworths. Hart will drive promotion of the new range across social media and on his TV and radio shows, with mailers and in-store displays also planned.

The SnackaChangi range is an exciting addition to the snack food category, with 'Premium Potato' one of the fastest growing segments in 'Salty Snacks', achieving double digit growth for the last two years*. It's the second largest segment, accounting for 21% of all Salty Snacks sold, and driving up category value* (Premium Potato $2.74/unit versus Salty Snacks average $2.35/unit).

The SnackaChangi range of chips are cooked in sunflower oil with no artificial colours or flavours and will be available in 150g bags, with the Vinegar & Salt flavour available in 40g from August 24.

Ⓟ Contact your Griffin's representative or phone Customer Services on 0800 808 990

*Source: IRI New Zealand Grocery Scan MAT 29/03/2020

Top 30 in New World Beer & Cider Awards

NEW ZEALAND owned and locally made brands were the big winners in this year's New World Beer & Cider Awards, announced on 1 June.

Chair of Judges, beer writer and author Michael Donaldson, says the winning list exemplifies what the local brewing industry has to offer. "These awards are open to entries from all over the world, but New Zealand brewers proved their might once again. Almost all of the Top 30 winners are New Zealand made and owned, being crafted in all corners of the country by some of our best brewing talents."

Of the Top 30, 29 are made in New Zealand, with the Swinkels Family Brewers from The Netherlands contributing the only true import with its Bavaria 0.0% Wit beer – the first non-alcohol beer to make the podium in the awards' history.

The Top 30 beers and ciders are available nationwide through New World supermarkets throughout June.

An independent judging panel, comprising of 25 experts from across the industry, and eight associate judges-in-training, assessed the entries over two days in Wellington in early March.

2020 New World Beer & Cider Awards Top 30

Lager
- Boneface Brewing Outlaw IPL
- Heineken Light
- McLeod's Longboarder Lager
- Zeelandt Black Monk

Pilsner
- Brave Brewing Co The People's Pils
- Panhead Port Rd Pilsner
- Sawmill Pilsner

IPA
- Behemoth Me Time Mosaic Hazy IPA
- Garage Project Fresh IPA 2020
- Lakeman Hopadelic IPA
- McLeod's Great Migration IPA
- Panhead The Vandal NZIPA

Pale Ale
- Bach Brewing JUICY AF
- Epic Hopshine Pale Ale
- Epic Shotgun XPA
- Good George APA
- Parrotdog Falcon

Stout & Porter
- 8 Wired iStout
- Renaissance Elemental Porter
- Sunshine Brewing Stout

Sour, barrel-aged, fruit, flavoured, spiced, smoked, specialty & experimental
- Emporium Brewing Drop, Cover, Hold Tropical Sour
- Garage Project Electric Dry Hop Acid Test
- Kererū Night Spirit Barrel-Aged Imperial Stout

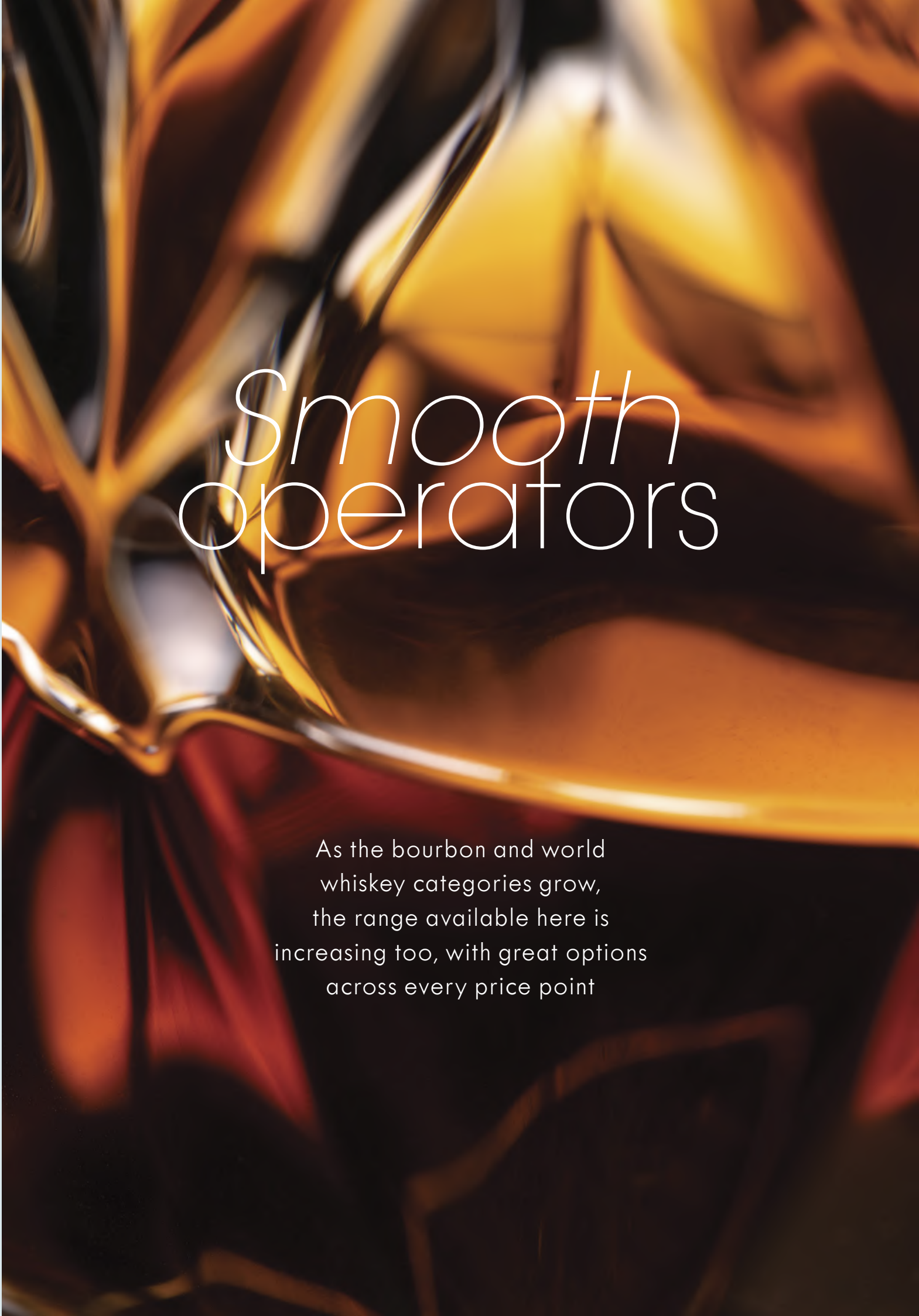
Cider
- Good George Passionfruit Cider
- Peckham's Farmhouse Cider
- Zeffer Rosé Cider

Wheat & Other Grain Beer
- Bavaria 0.0% Wit
- Three Boys Wheat

Other ales and beers
- Sprig & Fern Scotch Ale
- Sunshine Brewing Summer Ale

Ⓦ For more on the Top 30, as well as the 70 Highly Commended brews, visit newworld.co.nz/Top30





Smooth operators

As the bourbon and world whiskey categories grow, the range available here is increasing too, with great options across every price point



BOURBON

RRP $35 - $49.99

Woodstock Bourbon
37% ABV, 1L RRP $37.99
Asahi NZ

A good value Kentucky bourbon that is ideal for mixing in the classic bourbon and cola, or serving straight. Smooth and approachable.

Wild Turkey Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey
43.4% ABV 700ml RRP $43.99 and 1L RRP $53.99
Lion

This bourbon is aged for five to eight years in American white oak barrels that have the deepest, No. 4 "alligator" char. With notes of sweet vanilla, pear and hints of spice, it finishes with a full, rich flavour.

Wild Turkey American Honey
35.5% ABV 700ml RRP $44.99
Lion

A blend of Wild Turkey Bourbon Whiskey with pure honey. It has aromas of orange and caramel with a rich flavour of sweet honey, orange and caramel.

Old Forester 80 Proof
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $44.99
Hancocks

There's a strong floral character in the sharp, sweet aroma of this Kentucky bourbon, alongside hints of mint, rich tobacco leaf and vanilla. The flavour softens quickly with hints of oak, sweet corn and rye grain. It is spicy with soft vanilla and light orange notes. The finish is long, warm and slightly drying with a touch of sweetness.

Jim Beam White
37% ABV, 1L RRP $46.99
Beam Suntory

This is the classic expression of Jim Beam, which is the world's number one-selling Kentucky bourbon. It has aromas of oak with a hint of vanilla and cinnamon, while the flavour is caramel and spicy fruit with subtle coffee and chocolate. It's full flavoured with a smooth finish.

The Whiskey Barons Bond & Lillard
50% ABV, 375ml RRP $49.99
EuroVintage

This bourbon whiskey recreates the original Bond & Lillard that was released in 1869 and went on to win the Grand Prize at the St Louis World's Fair in 1904. It has floral and fruity top notes with a smooth caramel sweetness that lingers on the finish.

The Whiskey Barons Old Ripy
52% ABV, 375ml RRP $49.99
EuroVintage

A recreation of the original Old Ripy Kentucky Straight Bourbon, first created in 1868 and passed down through three generations before Prohibition ended production. It's a combination of eight-year-old Kentucky Straight Bourbon with 12-year-old and younger whiskeys for added complexity and oak.

RRP $50 - $79.99

Jim Beam Black
43% ABV, 1L RRP $50.99
Beam Suntory

This is the extra-aged version of Jim Beam and is a smooth, more flavourful style than the original, with a rich texture. It has aromas of vanilla, oak and spices that are echoed on the palate, along with tropical fruits. It has a long finish, with charcoal flavours coming through at the end.

Wild Turkey Rye
40.5% ABV 700ml RRP $51.99
Lion

A deeper, "alligator" char is used for this whiskey, which pays tribute to America's first distilled spirit: rye whiskey. Wild Turkey Rye has bold rye flavour balanced with big vanilla, butterscotch and spice notes.



Batch 10 Honey Bourbon is a blend of Kentucky bourbon with organic New Zealand honey.

Wild Turkey 101
50.5% ABV 700ml RRP $61.99
Lion

This bourbon is made with a high rye content, then aged in American white oak barrels with the deepest char for more character. The 101 refers to the proof at which it is bottled.

Buffalo Trace Bourbon
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $64.99
Federal Merchants

This deep amber bourbon has a complex aroma of vanilla, mint and molasses. Flavours of brown sugar and spice give way to oak, toffee, dark fruit and anise. The finish is long and smooth.

Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $64.99
Hancocks

A small-batch bourbon with aromas of rich dried fruit, vanilla, butterscotch and cinnamon. It is rich, chewy and smooth on the palate with complex citrus and cocoa, toffee and spice, with a touch of mint. The finish is creamy, smooth and long.

Batch 10 Honey Bourbon
36% ABV, 700ml RRP $64.95
Batch 10

A blend of Kentucky bourbon with organic New Zealand honey. The honey is visible in the bottle as a swirl of sediment. Batch 10 has a rich honey aroma with dark caramel and a hint of char. On the palate it is honeyed up front, followed by caramel overlaying the spice and wood of the bourbon with a touch of smoke.

Johnny Drum Black Label Bourbon
43% ABV, 750ml RRP $65
Tickety-Boo

This bourbon hails from Kentucky's Willett Distillery. It has aromas of sweet honeysuckle and mint with a palate of oily caramel alongside notes of oak and a peppery finish.

Jim Beam Double Oak
43% ABV, 1L RRP $69.99
Beam Suntory

A twice-barrelled version of Jim Beam, where the bourbon is poured into a second freshly charred barrel to mature for a second time. This added interaction with the wood gives hints of toasted wood in the aroma, along with caramel and vanilla, while there is a distinctive spiced oakiness on the palate alongside intense caramel and toffee.

Maker's Mark
40% ABV, 1L RRP $69.99
Beam Suntory

A bright gold bourbon bottled under a distinctive red wax seal. Maker's Mark has aromas of vanilla and soft caramel that continue on the palate, along with spice, fresh oak and a hint of smoke.

Wild Turkey Longbranch
43% ABV 750ml RRP $69.99
Lion

Longbranch is made with eight-year-old Wild Turkey Bourbon and uses two charcoal filtrations – the first using charcoal from American white oak, and the second made from Texas Mesquite wood. The bright gold bourbon has aromas of vanilla and spices with flavours of caramel, pear, and hints of citrus on the palate. The finish is buttery, smooth and smoky with notes of gentle pepper and toasted oak.

Russell's Reserve 10 Year Old Bourbon
45% ABV, 750ml RRP $75
EuroVintage

Father and son master distillers Jimmy and Eddie Russell, of Wild Turkey fame, bring their nearly 100 years of combined experience to this bourbon. This hand selected small batch bourbon has a rich caramel and vanilla taste and a smooth finish.



Woodford Reserve Double Oaked
43.2% ABV, 700ml RRP $79.99
Hancocks

This twice-barrelled bourbon is matured in two charred oak barrels, with the second barrel deeply toasted before a light charring to extract additional soft, sweet oak character. It has rich aromas of dark fruit, caramel, honey, chocolate, marzipan and toasted oak, while on the palate it is a full-bodied mix of vanilla, dark caramel, hazelnut, apple, fruit and spices. The finish is long and creamy with lingering hints of honeyed apple.

RRP $80 and above

Old Forester 1870 Original Batch
45% ABV, 700ml RRP $84.99
Hancocks

This Kentucky bourbon whiskey is named for the year that founder George Garvin Brown created Old Forester on Louisville's famous Whiskey Row. In a nod to his original batching process (using whiskeys from three distilleries), it's created from select barrels from three warehouses, each with different entry proofs and age profiles. There are aromas of clove and an array of citrus fruit with a sweet honeysuckle character. Baking spices on the palate lead to a citrus fruit mix and shortbread sweetness before a soft finish with lingering fruit and spice.

Johnny Drum Private Stock Bourbon
50.5% ABV, 750ml RRP $90
Tickety-Boo

Part of the Willett Family Estate brand family, this bourbon has aromas of sour apple, vanilla and oak. The flavours are of rich fruit, vanilla and spice.

Wild Turkey Rare Breed
56.4% ABV 700ml RRP $91.99
Lion

A smooth barrel proof bourbon whiskey with notes of sweet tobacco and hints of orange and mint. A consistent award-winner, with Gold at the 2017 San Francisco World Spirits Competition and Double Gold the previous year.

Jim Beam Legent
47% ABV 700ml $99.99
Beam Suntory

This unique collaboration combines Kentucky distilling with Japanese blending and was released in 2019. Legent (pronounced "lee-jent") was created by Jim Beam Master Distiller Fred Noe and Chief Blender of Suntory, Shinji Fukuyo.
It is made from a Kentucky straight bourbon using the Jim Beam recipe, which is then aged in wine and sherry casks before being blended with more Kentucky straight bourbon.
It has a classic bourbon character rounded out by rich notes of fruit and spice from its cask ageing.

Rowan's Creek Small Batch Bourbon
50.05% ABV, 750ml RRP $100
Tickety-Boo

Part of Kentucky's Willett Distillery brand family, the Rowan's Creek Small Batch Bourbon has aromas of caramel and vanilla with herbal and floral undertones. This continues on the palate, which is initially oily but finishes dry with notes of oak and lingering spice.

Willett Pot Still Reserve Bourbon
47% ABV, 750ml RRP $110
Tickety-Boo

The strikingly opulent bottle for this bourbon was fashioned using the blueprints for the original still at the Willett distillery, which was founded in Kentucky in 1936. The bourbon has aromas of vanilla cake, while the palate features caramel, vanilla, spice and citrus.

Noah's Mill Small Batch Bourbon
57.15% ABV, 750ml RRP $125
Tickety-Boo

A lush, rich whiskey from Willett in Kentucky. There are walnuts, prunes, and floral notes on the nose, which persist on the palate, alongside a hint of lavender. The finish has a lengthy burnt caramel character.

Jim Beam Legent is a unique combination of Kentucky distilling with Japanese blending.



Eagle Rare
45% ABV, 700ml RRP $129
Federal Merchants

This bourbon is aged for no less than 10 years and has complex aromas of toffee with hints of orange peel, herbs, honey, leather and oak. The taste is bold, dry and delicate with notes of candied almonds and very rich cocoa leading to a dry and lingering finish.

EH Taylor Small Batch Bourbon
50% ABV, 750ml RRP $249
Federal Merchants

This bourbon has been aged inside century-old warehouses constructed by E.H. Taylor Jr, who is regarded as one of the founding fathers of the bourbon industry. It has flavours of caramel corn sweetness, mingled with butterscotch and liquorice. The finish has a soft mouth-feel that develops into subtle spices of pepper and tobacco.

Kentucky Owl Confiscated Bourbon
48.2% ABV, 750ml RRP $250
Tickety-Boo

Distiller Dixon Dedman named this bourbon as a tribute to his great-great grandfather, whose barrels of bourbon were seized by the government just ahead of Prohibition in the USA. 'Confiscated' blends 6-, 9-, 10-, and 12-year old distillates to create a complex nose full of gardenia and honeysuckle, along with grape, red apple, banana and toasty sourdough. On the palate there are characters of toffee, muted sweet cinnamon spice, and fresh-squeezed orange juice, balanced with white grapes and finishing with a hint of cayenne.

Stagg Jr
67.2% ABV, 750ml RRP $375
Federal Merchants

Uncut and unfiltered, this is a robust bourbon whiskey that has been aged for nearly a decade. There is rich, sweet chocolate and brown sugar on the palate, mingled with bold rye spiciness. The lengthy finish has hints of cherries, cloves and smoke.

WHISKEY

RRP $40 - $59.99

Jameson Irish Whiskey
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $41.99, 1L RRP $57.99
Pernod Ricard

A blend of pot still and fine grain whiskeys that are triple-distilled and aged in bourbon and sherry casks for five to seven years. A light floral fragrance peppered with spicy wood and sweet notes, while on the palate it is a smooth balance of spice, nut and vanilla notes with hints of sweet sherry.

Jameson Caskmates IPA Edition
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $48.99
Pernod Ricard

The second release in the Caskmates series, this expression sees Jameson Irish whiskey finished in craft IPA barrels. On the nose there are floral, herbal hops and grapefruit citrus notes with subtle orchard fruits, complemented by wood shavings and a little nuttiness. Hops and light citrus on the palate combine with sweet herbal notes and delicate spicy tones. Lingering fresh fruit and hops give way to barley and a smooth finish.

Jameson Caskmates Stout Edition
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $48.99
Pernod Ricard

This whiskey was the result of a collaboration between Jameson's master distiller and the head brewer of Cork's Franciscan Well Brewery. Finished in in stout-seasoned whiskey casks, this whiskey retains the qualities of Jameson Original with additional notes of coffee, cocoa, butterscotch and a gentle hint of hops. Best served alongside a light stout, IPA or lager.

Bushmills Original
40% ABV, 1L RRP $49.99
Lion

A blend of triple-distilled malt whiskey with a lighter grain whiskey. The aroma is light and fruity with a touch of spice and vanilla. In the mouth it is gently warming with slight honey sweetness, while the finish is crisp and fresh with a hint of spice.

Canadian Club 8YO
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $49.99
Beam Suntory

Aromas of toffee, toasted oak and vanilla leading to a palate of English toffee and rich mellow oak with soft nutmeg and clove. The finish is warm and dry with lingering caramel and vanilla.





Slane Irish Whiskey

40% ABV, 700ml $49.99

Hancocks

Three varieties of casks are used for ageing this whiskey: virgin and seasoned casks made at the Brown-Forman cooperages, and Oloroso sherry casks from Jerez in Spain. The whiskey has complex aromas of fruit, caramel, vanilla, brown spice and toasted oak. It is initially spicy on the palate, but quickly sweetens with rich butterscotch and dried fruit, and finishes with a hint of dried fruit and caramelised sugar. Smooth and robust.

Fireball Cinnamon Whisky

33% ABV, 700ml RRP $54.99

Federal Merchants

Fireball is a blend of Canadian whisky with natural cinnamon flavour. Makers of Fireball, Sazerac Company in New Orleans, describe it as like "coming face-to-face with a fire-breathing dragon who just ate a whisky barrel full of spicy cinnamon".

Jack Daniel's

40% ABV, 1L RRP $54.99

Hancocks

This Tennessee whiskey is left to drip through 10 feet of sugar maple charcoal before it goes into barrel. It has aromas of oak, sweet vanilla and caramel, which continue through on the palate.

Tullamore D.E.W Irish Whiskey

40% ABV, 1L RRP $59.99

Federal Merchants

This blended Irish whiskey is triple-distilled and aged in a combination of ex-bourbon and sherry casks. It has aromas of light, sweet citrus and green apple combined with vanilla undertones. Early fresh fruit flavours lead to toasted wood and vanilla sweetness, with a buttery mellowness on the finish.

RRP $60 - $89.99

Bushmills Black Bush

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $64.99

Lion

The dark hue and rich fruit characters in this whiskey come from its ageing of up to seven years in Spanish Oloroso sherry casks and sweet bourbon barrels. It has aromas of spicy fruit and dark, velvety fruit flavours with a lingering sherry sweetness.

Templeton Rye 4YO

40% ABV, 750ml RRP $64.99

EuroVintage

Templeton Rye uses a mash of 95% rye, giving it a bold base and strong rye character, and is aged in new charred white-oak barrels. It has a grassy aroma with notes of Christmas spice, while on the palate it is slightly chewy with hints of caramel, butterscotch, toffee and allspice. The finish is clean and smooth.

Tincup is branded as a "classic American whiskey" and has a bourbon-style profile.

Tincup

42% ABV, 750ml RRP $64.99

EuroVintage

Tincup whiskey is branded as a "classic American whiskey". It is made from two whiskeys, each aged in #3 charred oak barrels for a minimum of four years: "High rye" bourbon, distilled and aged in Indiana, is blended with a small amount of Colorado single malt whiskey. These are then cut with Rocky Mountain water. Tincup has a bourbon-style profile with a bold and spicy finish.

Walsh The Irishman Founder's Reserve

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $69

EuroVintage

This is the signature blend created by Walsh Whiskey founder Bernard Walsh, combining old Irish pot still whiskey and single malt Irish whiskey. It contains 100% whiskey distillates from the copper pot still and is matured in bourbon casks. It has aromas of spice, black pepper, cinnamon, peaches and vanilla. In the mouth there are flavours of pot still spice, malt, dark chocolate, bourbon oak, and crème caramel. A lingering finish of oak and butterscotch.



Walsh Writers' Tears Copper Pot

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $69

EuroVintage

Writers' Tears is a distinctive blend of aged single malt and single pot still whiskeys matured and aged in American oak bourbon casks. It is distilled entirely from barley in traditional Irish copper pot stills. Copper Pot has aromas of apple with hints of vanilla and honey. On the palate it is gently spiced with a burst of ginger and butterscotch and background notes of toasted oak. The finish is long with subtle notes of milk chocolate and almonds.

Canadian Club 12YO

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Beam Suntory

The extra ageing on this expression from Canadian Club creates soft, rounded aromas with a palate that is spicy and creamy with hints of vanilla and rich mellow wood. The finish is long and dry.

Connemara

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Beam Suntory

There's a light, fruity aroma to this Irish whiskey, with distinct smoke and peat. The taste is initially smooth and honey sweet, with malt and fruits giving way to an intensifying full-bodied peat. Complex yet balanced with vanilla oak tones.

Glendalough Double Barrel Irish Single Malt

42% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Tickety-Boo

This Irish whiskey from craft distiller Glendalough is aged first in American bourbon barrels then finished in Spanish Oloroso sherry casks. It has aromas of cherry, raisin, fig and Christmas pudding notes, alongside floral lemongrass and a touch of nutmeg. It is sweet and smooth on the palate with butterscotch, honey and peppercorn, dried fruit and a touch of brown sugar. A lingering finish of ginger spices and a hint of almond.

The new Woodford Reserve Malt Whiskey has notes of chocolate, brown spice and fruit.

Jameson Black Barrel

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Pernod Ricard

A combination of American oak, sherry casks, and double charred bourbon barrels are used to age this whiskey, which is made from single Irish pot still whiskey and a rare small batch grain whiskey. It has intense notes of vanilla sweetness and caramel, alongside toasted wood, fruit and warm spice.

Woodford Reserve Malt Whiskey

45.2% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Hancocks

This Kentucky Straight Malt Whiskey is made from 51% malt and aged in new charred oak barrels, making it a great option for bourbon fans. It has a soft, nutty aroma with notes of light caramel and milk chocolate. On the palate there is dark chocolate, cocoa powder and brown spice, along with a medley of rich fruit and a bright oak character.

Woodford Reserve Rye Whiskey

45.2% ABV, 700ml RRP $69.99

Hancocks

A spicy aroma with distinct notes of rye, black pepper, cedar, cassia bark and a sweet marzipan character. The taste is of clove, rye, mint, molasses and honey, mingled with hints of apple and malt. The finish is long and sweetly spiced.

Templeton Rye 6YO

45.75% ABV, 750ml RRP $74.90

EuroVintage

The six-year-old expression of Templeton Rye adds more complex rye notes to the 4YO's signature taste, thanks to extra ageing in American oak barrels. It has a floral aroma, with notes of dry spice, butterscotch, vanilla, cherry and green apple. It's smooth on the palate with flavours of fruit, toasted oak and a burnt sugar sweetness leading to a lingering spicy finish.



Bushmills 10YO

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $74.99

Lion

This whiskey is triple-distilled from 100 per cent malted barley and spends at least 10 years in bourbon seasoned barrels, giving it aromas of honey, vanilla and milk chocolate that persist on the palate.

Suntory Whisky Toki

43% ABV, 700ml RRP $74.99

Beam Suntory

This distinctively delicate Japanese whisky has aromas of basil, green apple and honey, while on the palate there is grapefruit, green grapes, peppermint and thyme. The finish is subtly sweet and spicy with a hint of vanilla oak, white pepper and ginger.

Walsh The Irishman Single Malt

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $75

EuroVintage

A small batch classic Irish single malt that is triple distilled and aged in oak bourbon and Oloroso sherry casks, giving it sweet vanilla and rich fruit characters. It has aromas of ripe peach, dried apricot, and tropical fruits with hints of orange blossom and vanilla fudge. On the palate there is vanilla sweetness, toasted almonds and honey, a little oak, digestive biscuits, apricots, and a hint of cocoa. The finish is long with a light maltiness and sweet oak.

Thomson Whisky Two Tone Release

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $79

Thomson Whisky

The name of this whisky refers to the two kinds of cask used in its maturation. The whisky itself is made from selected whiskies that are barrel aged and blended by New Zealand's Thomson Whisky. The infinity symbol on the bottle replaces an age statement and refers to the marriage of casks. The casks are European oak that formerly held New Zealand red wine, and American white oak used exclusively for whiskey. On the nose there is rich caramelised fruit, while the palate is dry with oak and red fruit characters and a hint of spice and tannins. This blended cask-finished whisky won Silver at the NZ Whisk(e)y Awards 2018, Silver Outstanding at the IWSC in 2017 and Gold at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2016.

Walsh Writers' Tears Red Head

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $79

EuroVintage

Maturation in Spanish Oloroso sherry butts gives this single malt Irish whiskey its signature ruby colour (and its name), along with rich dried fruit character. There is orange peel, dried fruits and sherry plums on the nose, while in the mouth there is nutty Oloroso, spicy raisins and creamy oak. The finish is long and complex with an orange note.

Batch 10 Manuka Smoked Whiskey

45% ABV, 700ml $79.95

Batch 10

The folk at Batch 10 have used premium Kentucky whiskey for this addition to their portfolio, which they smoke with Manuka for a distinctively New Zealand character. It has a strong smoked quality and a smooth finish. Awarded Silver at the NZ Spirits Awards 2019.

Canadian Club 20YO

40% ABV, 700ml RRP $79.99

Beam Suntory

A blended Canadian whiskey seasoned in white oak barrels. The rich aroma features toffee, raisin, dark plums and apple blossom. The flavour is a clean combination of nuts and spice, while the lingering finish is of pepper, apple, nutmeg and rich oak.

Glendalough Triple Barrel Irish Whiskey

42% ABV, 700ml RRP$79.99

Tickety-Boo

This whiskey from boutique Irish distillery Glendalough is aged in bourbon barrels then finished in sherry and madeira casks for added spice and intensity. It has rich aromas of sultanas and tropical fruit that continue on the palate alongside dark cherry and plum, vanilla and a slight peppercorn spice. The finish is balanced and clean with a light earthiness. Gold winner at the Irish Whiskey Awards in late 2019.

The Dead Rabbit Irish Whiskey
44% ABV, 700ml RRP $79.99
Federal Merchants

This whiskey is aged for five years in bourbon casks and then finished in specially made small virgin oak casks. Its aroma is of vanilla, spice, fruit and malt with intense spice on the palate and a lingering finish. It's named for The Dead Rabbit Grocery & Grog in New York, which has won Best Bar in the World twice.

Method & Madness Single Grain Irish Whiskey
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $79.99
Pernod Ricard

A single grain Irish whiskey finished in virgin Spanish oak casks and matured in first fill bourbon casks. It has aromas of rose petal, pine and light wood, with flavours of warm toasted oak, grapefruit and zesty wood spices. The finish is of sweet cereal, with clove and fresh mint.

Teeling Single Grain
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $79.99
Hancocks

Matured in Californian red wine barrels, this Irish whiskey has aromas of fruit cake and spice with a soft, sweet marzipan character. On the palate there is spice, raisin, red fruit and a hint of tannins, while the finish is dry with lingering wood and spice.

Penderyn 'Celt' Welsh Single Malt
41% ABV, 700ml RRP $POA
Whisky Trade

This Penderyn whisky is matured in American oak and Madeira casks before spending the last part of its days picking up a distinctly smoky flavour from casks that previously held peated whisky. The smoke is soft and balances well with the classic sweet and light character of Penderyn whisky.

Penderyn 'Legend' Welsh Single Malt
41% ABV, 700ml RRP $POA
Whisky Trade

The all-new 'Legend' replaces the previous classic Penderyn expression. It's matured in ex-American oak casks before final maturation in Madeira barriques. Fresh and fruity (apple, citrus) flavours mingle with creamy fudge notes. A light and easy-drinking style.

Penderyn 'Myth' Welsh Single Malt
41% ABV, 700ml RRP $POA
Whisky Trade

One of the newest expressions from this iconic Welsh distillery, 'Myth' is a combination of whisky of different ages, all from ex-bourbon casks. The classic Penderyn profile of sweet fruit (apple, pear) mixes with a hint of citrus. The oak comes through more strongly on the palate and builds to a drying finish. A light and pleasant dram from Wales.

'Myth' is one of the newest expressions from iconic Welsh distillery Penderyn.

Mitchell & Son Green Spot
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $89.99
Pernod Ricard

A non-age statement single pot still Irish whiskey comprising of pot still whiskeys aged between seven and ten years. The whiskey is matured in a combination of new bourbon and refill bourbon casks as well as sherry casks. There are fresh aromatic oils and spices on the nose, with orchard fruits, barley and subtle toasted wood. It is full and spicy on the palate. A hint of cloves accompanies green apples and toasted oak before a lingering finish of spices and barley.

Teeling Dublin Pot Still
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $89.99
Hancocks

This whiskey is made using a mash bill of 50% malted and 50% unmalted barley that has been triple distilled and matured in a combination of American virgin oak, bourbon, and sherry casks. Aromas of hibiscus, honeycomb, white grape flesh, grapefruit and citrus lead to a spicy, creamy palate with white pepper, warm, roasted peaches and baked biscuits. The finish is dry, with hints of spice, roasted almonds and maple sugar lingering.



RRP $90 – RRP $149.99

Cotswolds Single Malt Whisky
46% ABV, 200ml RRP $POA
Whisky Trade

Using only locally grown barley which is then floor malted, this English whisky is matured in first-fill ex-bourbon barrels and reconditioned red wine casks. The aroma is sweetly honeyed, with butterscotch and plenty of fruit - stonefruits fresh and stewed - along with nutty marzipan. The palate is oily, lush and rich, with orange marmalade, muscavado or brown sugar and tannins, bringing a twist of cracked black pepper. The finish is treacled, with dark red fruit and soft wooded flavours lingering.

Cotswolds Founders Choice Single Malt Whisky
60.4% ABV, 700ml RRP $POA
Whisky Trade

This cask-strength whisky is aged in shaved, toasted and re-charred American Oak red wine barriques, which give a rich and intense maturation to the fruity spirit, offering toffee, oak and red fruits, and a deep colour. It has aromas of dry hay and cut wood, with dark chocolate and dried figs, and plums in sweet syrup. Warming cereal and toast notes on the palate, with lots of fresh red fruits and butterscotch. The finish has hints of spicy oak, lots of dried fruit and a lingering nutty, dry note.

Amrut Indian Single Malt Whisky
46% ABV 700ml RRP $90
Tickety-Boo

There are liquorice-bourbon notes on the nose of this whiskey from India (the first single malt to be made in that country), with burnt honeycomb and toffee.
It is rich on the palate, with barley-oak sweetness and a long, layered sweet-dry finish.

Tullamore D.E.W 12YO
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $94.99
Federal Merchants

As with Tullamore D.E.W. Original, the 12YO expression is a triple distilled blend of all three types of Irish whiskey, but has a high proportion of pot still and malt whiskeys, matured in a combination of bourbon and sherry casks for 12 to 15 years. There is spice and red wine on the nose with a nutty character followed by a light woody note. It has a deep spice flavour with a robust and creamy body overlaid by chocolate, dried fruit and nut. The finish is long and rich with citrus, chocolate, raisins and marzipan.

Amrut Indian Single Malt Whisky was the first single malt to be made in that country.

Dunedin DoubleCask
40% ABV, 500ml RRP $99
The NZ Whisky Collection

Made from 100% New Zealand malted barley, this whisky has been matured in the New Zealand Whisky Collection's Oamaru seaside bondstore in small American oak ex-bourbon casks and French oak ex-New Zealand red wine casks. It has aromas of new leather, toasted oak and beeswax leading to a palate of sweet floral notes and a finish of allspice and cedar.

High Wheeler 21YO
43% ABV, 350ml RRP $99
The NZ Whisky Collection

Many years ago, in the former Willowbank distillery in Dunedin, a batch of whisky was made in the distillery's column still, using unmalted barley. This "single grain whisky" was then blended with 70% of their single malt, and placed into American oak ex-bourbon barrels for 21 years. The team at The NZ Whisky Collection has carefully selected casks and bottled them as "High Wheeler", in reference to the bicycle of the same name (also known as a 'penny farthing'), which appears on the label. The whisky has balanced aromas of baked pear and vanilla, with gentle floral notes. The pear sweetness persists on the palate, which is smooth and clean. A chilli pepper warmth gives way to a lingering salty/sweet finish.





Jameson Whiskey Makers Series – The Cooper's Croze

43% ABV, 700ml RRP $99.99

Pernod Ricard

This expression from the Jameson Whiskey Makers Series celebrates the craft of Jameson Head Cooper, Ger Buckley at Midleton Distillery. It has a subtle floral aroma that develops into rich ripe fruits, with charred oak and cedar wood. On the palate, initial sweet vanilla from the American ex-bourbon barrels adds depth to the rich fruit character from the ex-Oloroso sherry butts. A touch of hazelnut and toasted wood complement the pot still spices. The finish is long with vanilla sweetness fading to barley and a touch of oak char.

Jameson Whiskey Makers Series – The Distiller's Safe

43% ABV, 700ml RRP $99.99

Pernod Ricard

Part of the Jameson series that celebrates the individual crafts of Jameson's Head Distiller, Head Blender and Head Cooper. Distiller's Safe is created by Head Distiller, Brian Nation, to show his mastery of the Irish pot still. It has a floral perfume, progressing through fresh herbs to spices, barley sugar sweetness, grapefruit, green pepper and a touch of marzipan. Initial barley sugar sweetness on the palate is joined by hints of cinnamon and liquorice and a vibrant note of mandarin orange alongside nutty ground almond. The finish is light and zesty.

Amrut Fusion Single Malt Whisky

50% ABV, 700ml RRP $100

Tickety-Boo

This Indian whisky has heavy oak aromas, with hints of barley sugar and soft smoke. Intense on the palate with warming, full-blown peat, a sherry trifle note, barley fruitiness and intense chocolate fudge that resonates through the palate. The finish exhibits dry peat and oak with molasses sweetness and spice.

Amrut Single Malt Peated Whisky

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $100

Tickety-Boo

A combination of Indian barley, Scottish peat and American oak create this whisky from award-winning Indian distillery Amrut. It has aromas of intensely dry peat with a hint of citrus, while the palate is initially sweet molasses, leading to peat and dry spices and a clean finish.

Glendalough Single Pot Still Irish Oak Whiskey

43% ABV, 700ml RRP $100

Tickety-Boo

The use of virgin Irish oak casks sets this whiskey apart from the outset. The pot still whiskey is finished for up to year in the casks, which are made from 140-year-old trees that are felled sustainably from the forests around the distillery. Each bottle is numbered and traceable to each cask and even to the original tree. The Irish oak adds toasted oak and vanilla flavours that complement and balance the classic pot still spices.

Thomson Whisky Manuka Smoke Progress Report

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $105

Thomson Whisky

This 'work in progress' bottling is made from 100 per cent New Zealand-grown and malted barley that is smoked using native manuka wood, then distilled through Thomson Whisky's hand-beaten copper pot still. Aromas of smoke sit over a hint of underlying sweetness, with a spicy/savoury character that develops as it opens up. On the palate, there is intense smoke with notes of spice and a lingering smoky finish. The Manuka Smoke release is still in its youth (hence 'progress report') but has already won Gold at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2016 and Silver at the IWSC in 2017.

Thomson Whisky Rye & Barley

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $105

Thomson Whisky

This copper-hued whisky is made from New Zealand-grown grain that was crushed, mashed, fermented and double distilled through Thomson's hand-beaten copper pot stills. On the nose there is rich caramel and subtle raisin. It's oily and smooth on the palate with a sweetness upfront that leads to complex raisin and golden fruit character and a lingering finish.

Thomson Whisky South Island Peat Progress Report

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $105

Thomson Whisky

The New Zealand-grown malted barley used in this whisky is smoked using South Island peat for an additional local touch. The whisky is distilled through a copper pot still and bottled in its youth, as "an update from the barrel". The aroma is of smoke, salt and a vanilla sweetness. On the palate it is rounded with a subtle sweetness and intense smoke that lingers on the finish. It won Gold at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2016, Silver at the IWSC in 2017 and Bronze at the NZ Whisk(e)y Awards 2018.

Mars Iwai Tradition

40% ABV, 750ml RRP $109.99

Hancocks

A contemporary Japanese whisky that uses a blend of sherry, American oak, bourbon and wine casks. It is rich and complex with sweet honey and malt fragrances that lead to a palate of ripe cherry, honey toffee, and a ginger spice.

Method & Madness Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey

46% ABV, 700ml RRP $120.99

Pernod Ricard

A single pot still whiskey aged in French chestnut casks and matured in sherry and American barrels. Aromas of red liquorice, rosemary, mint and root ginger. There is sweet fruit and spice on the palate, with cinnamon and ripe banana. Initial aromatic green tea on the finish dissipates to fruit, spice and rich wood.



WHISKEY/BOURBON BRANDS

Amrut
This brand of whisky is made by India's Amrut Distilleries in Bangalore. Amrut Single Malt Whisky launched in 2004 and shot to fame after renowned whisky connoisseur Jim Murray gave it 82/100 in 2005 and 2010, and named Amrut Fusion Single Malt as the third best whisky in the world with a score of 97/100. 'Amrut' is a Sanskrit word that can be translated as 'nectar of the gods'.

Batch 10
Friends Brent Robinson and Gordon McKerchar launched the Batch 10 brand with a New Zealand honey bourbon in 2017. They import barrels of premium Kentucky bourbon from the US and combine it with organic honey sourced from the rural settlement of Puhoi, north of Auckland, where the pair both live. The brand name refers to the tenth batch of their trials as being the one that formed the recipe. Batch 10 now also has the Smoked Whisky and two gin expressions.

Buffalo Trace
This Kentucky distillery dates back to the early 1800s and is said to be the oldest continuously operating distillery in the US. Buffalo Trace takes its name from the paths carved through the wilderness by ancient buffalo and followed by 18th century pioneers and explorers, with one such trail leading to the banks of the Kentucky River.

Bushmills
Famed Irish brand Bushmills holds the title of the world's oldest distillery, having been granted its licence to distil in 1608. It is located in the village of Bushmills, County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

Canadian Club
Hiram Walker founded his distillery in 1858 in Detroit, later moving to Ontario, Canada. His whiskey was popular in the gentlemen's clubs of the US and Canada in the late 19th century where it became known as "Club Whiskey". Its popularity was such that American distillers petitioned for the word "Canada" to be included on the bottle to distinguish it from their own competing whiskies. The move backfired, and made Club Whiskey more exclusive. Walker added "Canadian" to the label in 1889 and to the name of the whiskey the following year.

Connemara
This Irish whiskey brand is made by the Kilbeggan Distilling Co. west of Dublin. Connemara is said to be inspired by Ireland's ancient distilling traditions and has been a consistent award-winner at the IWSC and was named World's Best Irish Single Malt in 2009.

Cotswolds
This distillery was established in England's famed rural Cotswolds in 2014, becoming the first full-scale distillery in the history of the area. It produces a range of whiskies, gins and liqueurs.

The Dead Rabbit
This Irish whiskey takes its name from a notorious street gang of Irish immigrants in New York in the mid-1800s. It's made by The Dublin Liberties Whiskey Company and is also linked to The Dead Rabbit Grocery & Grog in New York, which has been twice named Best Bar in the World.

E.H. Taylor
Part of the Buffalo Trace brand family, E.H. Taylor is named after Colonel Edmund Haynes Taylor, Jr, considered to be a founding father of the bourbon industry. He bought the O.F.C. Distillery at the end of the Civil War and developed techniques still in use today. The whiskeys are still aged in century-old warehouses constructed by E.H. Taylor.

Eagle Rare
Eagle Rare is distilled and distributed by the Buffalo Trace Distillery in Kentucky. It is part of the wider brand family which includes E.H Taylor, Stagg and Sazerac.

Glendalough
The Glendalough Distillery, south of Dublin, was set up by five friends with a desire to revive Ireland's craft distilling heritage. Starting with a range of poitín (a traditional Irish distilled beverage) they expanded to whiskey and seasonal gins. The label features Saint Kevin of Glendalough, a holy man who founded a monastic settlement in the area in the 6th century.

Jack Daniel's
Jasper Newton Daniel (commonly known as Jack) established his distillery in Tennessee in 1866 and introduced his signature Old No. 7 Tennessee whiskey, which drips through 10 feet of sugar maple charcoal before it goes into barrel. Lynchburg in Tennessee is still home to the Jack Daniel's distillery.

Jameson
The world's best-selling Irish whiskey brand was in fact established by a Scot – John Jameson. He arrived in Dublin in 1780, married into a family with distilling ties and established the John Jameson & Son Irish Whiskey Company in 1810, based at the family's Bow Street Distillery. The Bow Street site is now a visitor's centre and the Jameson range is produced at Jameson Distillery Midleton in Cork.

Jim Beam
Jim Beam is the world's number one selling Kentucky bourbon. It traces its history back to 1795 when Jacob Beam sold his first barrel of 'Old Jake Beam', based on a corn-whiskey recipe created by his father. The family distillery, known as 'Old Tub', passed through the generations until 1894 when Col. James Beam took over from his father. In 1943, a decade after the end of Prohibition, 'Old Tub Kentucky Bourbon' changed its name to Jim Beam, in honour of the Colonel, who died five years later.

Maker's Mark
Maker's Mark was first bottled in 1958 under its distinctive red wax seal. Each bottle is hand-dipped in the red wax with the team of 'dippers' managing around

125 bottles a minute. The bourbon is 'aged to taste', rather than a specified length of time, with the Master Distiller and a tasting panel determining when each barrel is ready.

Mars Shinsu
Mars Shinsu is Japan's highest whiskey distillery, situated in the alpine village of Miyada, at nearly 800m in southern Nagano Prefecture between the north and south Japanese alps. The Hombo family has been distilling for more than a century and added whisky to their repertoire in 1949.

Method & Madness
This Irish whiskey is made at the Midleton Distillery in County Cork, which is owned by Pernod Ricard. It is overseen by Brian Nation, the Head Distiller at Jameson, and is based on collaboration by a team of masters and apprentices in distilling, blending and maturation. The micro distillery makes a range of whiskeys as well as a gin.

Mitchell & Son
Mitchell & Son in Dublin is Ireland's oldest wine and spirit merchant and currently run by the 6th and 7th generations of the Mitchell family. It was established in 1805 as a bakery, coffee shop and confectionery business before expanding into wine in the 1880s. In 1887, the family got into whiskey bonding, sending empty casks to the local Jameson Distillery on Bow Street. These were filled and returned to the Mitchell's cellar warehouse beneath Dublin's streets. The barrels were marked with a daub or 'spot' of paint to identify how long they would be matured for – hence the name Spot Whiskey.

The NZ Whisky Collection
In 2010, the NZ Whisky Collection bought the last 443 barrels of whisky remaining after the closure of New Zealand's last whisky distillery (Dunedin's Willowbank) in 1997. It has been maturing those barrels in its seaside bondstore in Oamaru's heritage precinct ever since. A crowdfunding campaign allowed NZWC to start work on a new warehouse and cellar door project in Oamaru and in March 2020 it announced it is building a new distillery inside Speight's Brewery in Dunedin.

Old Forester
Old Forester was created in 1870 and is the longest running bourbon on the market today, as it is the only remaining bourbon continuously distilled and marketed by the founding family before, during and after Prohibition. It was also the first bourbon to be sealed in a glass bottle.

Penderyn
This Welsh whisky brand launched in 2004 after a group of friends were inspired to establish the first whisky distillery in Wales in over a century. Penderyn takes its name from the historic village in which it is made, chosen because of the site's own supply of fresh natural spring water. Penderyn produces its own malted barley spirit, which is cask-aged in its cellars.

Redbreast Whiskey
The largest selling Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey in the world, Redbreast is often regarded as the definitive expression of traditional Pot Still Irish whiskey and has an almost cult-like following amongst whiskey aficionados. Redbreast was produced originally by Dublin spirits merchant Gilbey's, which was established in 1857. Gilbey's used distillate sourced from Jameson's Bow Street Distillery. Today, Redbreast is owned by Irish Distillers, a subsidiary of Pernod Ricard.

Russell's Reserve
Named for master distiller Jimmy Russell of Wild Turkey fame, this bourbon brand offers hand-selected small batch bourbon made at the same Kentucky distillery as Wild Turkey by Russell and his master distiller son, Eddie.

Sazerac
Sazerac Rye Whiskey symbolises the tradition and history of New Orleans in the 1800s, when saloons masquerading as 'coffee houses' sprang up. It was at the Sazerac Coffee House on Royal Street where a toddy made with Rye Whiskey and Peychaud's Bitters was served and became known as the "Sazerac".

Slane
Slane Irish Whiskey is a collaboration between the whiskey-making Brown family of Brown-Forman in Kentucky, and the Conyngham family of Slane Castle in Ireland. Located in Boyne Valley, once home to several distilleries, the whiskey is made in a new distillery built in the renovated 250-year-old castle stables.

Stagg Jr
This is part of the Buffalo Distillery brand family and is named for George T. Stagg, who bought the OFC distillery from E.H. Taylor in 1878 and is regarded as one of the early craftsmen of the bourbon industry.

Suntory Whisky
Suntory was founded by Shinjiro Torii in 1923 with the Yamazaki Distillery, which is Japan's first and oldest malt whisky distillery. Initially inspired by traditional Scottish whisky, Torii envisioned a Japanese approach by choosing a terrain and climate completely different from those of Scotland. Suntory now has three distilleries with distinct styles: Yamazaki, Hakushu and Chita.

Teeling Whiskey Co.
Brothers Jack and Stephen Teeling established Teeling Distillery in Dublin in 2015. It was the first new distillery in the city in more than 125 years, and was close to where their ancestor Walter Teeling had his craft distillery in 1782. Their aim is to assist in the revival of Irish whiskey around the world.

Templeton Rye
A rye whiskey that takes its name from a small town in Iowa where the residents produced a popular whiskey in the 1920s.

Thomson Whisky
This New Zealand whisky brand was established by husband and wife team Rachael and Mathew Thomson in 2011. They have a distillery in Riverhead, north-west of central Auckland, where they blend whiskies and distill single malt using a hand-beaten copper pot still and New Zealand grown and malted barley. The Thomsons age their whiskies in a range of casks including ex-bourbon barrels, New Zealand red wine casks and some miniatures.

Tincup
Tincup takes its name from an old mining town on the western side of the Rockies, itself named for the Colorado mining pioneers and the tin cups from which they drank their whiskey. This American whiskey cut with Rocky Mountain water is made by founder, distiller and Colorado local, Jess Graber. The bottle top also acts as a tiny cup.

Tullamore D.E.W
The original Tullamore distillery opened in 1829 in the town of Tullamore in Ireland's County Offaly. The D.E.W in the name refers to Daniel E. Williams, who started as a stable boy at the distillery and worked his way up to become the owner, creating the whiskey that still bears his name today. The brand was sold in the 1960s and production was shifted to Cork in the 1970s, but it was returned to a new distillery in Tullamore in 2014, where it is still made.

The Whiskey Barons
A collection launched in 2017 by Campari America with the relaunch of two historic whiskeys: Old Ripy and Bond & Lillard. Old Ripy was first bottled in 1868, and Bond & Lillard in 1869. Wild Turkey Master Distiller Eddie Russell now oversees the development of future Whiskey Baron products.

Walsh Whiskey
This Irish whiskey house started in 1999 with husband and wife team Bernard and Rosemary Walsh making an Irish coffee mix called Hot Irishman. Their first whiskey launched in 2007 (The Irishman) and Walsh Whiskey now offers a range of signature, boutique and special release whiskeys. In 2013 it shifted to Royal Oak in County Carlow, where a distillery, warehousing and visitor centre have been built.

Wild Turkey
Wild Turkey can trace its origins back to 1895, but got its name in 1940. It is made on Wild Turkey Hill in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Master Distiller Jimmy Russell joined the company in 1954, where he remains today, working with his son Eddie. The father and son master distiller duo are both members of the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame and the only active father and son duo of bourbon master distillers in the world.

Willett
An independently family-owned and operated distillery in Bardstown, Kentucky. Founded in 1936, the business is today led by parents Even and Martha Willett Kulsveen and now the fifth generation of family distillers, siblings Britt and Drew Kulsveen, are continuing the family tradition of hand-crafted bourbons. The Willett family of brand labels includes Willett, Johnny Drum, Old Bardstown, Noah's Mill, Rowan's Creek, Pure Kentucky, and Kentucky Vintage.

Woodford Reserve
The Woodford Reserve Distillery is one of Kentucky's smallest and oldest, dating back to the mid-1800s, although the brand itself was launched in 1996. The distillery has one of the few heat-cycled barrelhouses in the world. It is the official bourbon of the famous Kentucky Derby.

Woodstock
A bourbon brand made in Kentucky using limestone filtered water and aged in charred oak barrels.



Mars Cosmo
40% ABV, 750ml RRP $124.99
Hancocks

A smoothly elegant malt whisky by Japanese distillery Shinshu, with some Scottish input to the blend. It has notes of honey, caramel and ripe fruit, that are augmented by hints of wood and smoke.

Oamaruvian 'Revolution'
46% ABV, 500ml RRP $129
The NZ Whisky Collection

This whisky represents an exciting turning point for The New Zealand Whisky Collection, being the first in the range of single malt whiskies produced and matured by the NZWC (as opposed to whisky made at Willowbank Distillery). It has been distilled in two copper pot stills, using 100% New Zealand malted barley and then matured in NZWC's Oamaru seaside bondstore in small American oak ex-bourbon casks and French oak ex-New Zealand red wine casks. The whisky is full of rich fruit and spice character, toasted oak and coconut and a hint of sea spray to finish.

Method & Madness Single Malt Irish Whiskey
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $135.99
Pernod Ricard

A single malt whiskey laid down at the Midleton Distillery in 2002, finished in French Limousin oak and matured in bourbon barrels. It has light perfumed notes that give way to dry barley and ice cream cone wafer. The wafer sweetness continues on the palate with a hint of cinnamon, and a finish of bon bons with subtle toasted barley.

Sazerac Rye Whisky
45% ABV, 700ml RRP $139
Federal Merchants

Synonymous with New Orleans, this rye whiskey has a drier, spicier taste in keeping with its rye base. It has aromas of clove, vanilla, anise and pepper, which combine with subtle notes of candied spices and citrus. The finish is big and smooth with hints of liquorice.

Willett Family Estate Straight Rye Whiskey
55.8% ABV, 750ml RRP $140
Tickety-Boo

The first distillation of this whiskey takes place in the 60-foot column still at the Willett distillery, while the second takes place in a copper pot still. Following that, the spirit is aged in white oak barrels. It has aromas of brandied cherry, cinnamon and spices with a hint of oak. The cherry persists on the palate, which is robust with lengthy vanilla and spice.

Oamaruvian 'Revolution' is the first single malt whisky produced and matured by NZ Whisky Collection.

RRP $150 and above

Thomson Whisky Local Folk & Smoke Single Cask Single Malt
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $155
Thomson Whisky

A limited edition release of just 127 bottles, this new whisky from Thomson was created to celebrate all the locals involved in its production – from the farmers who grew the barley through to the local retailer selling it. The whisky is made from 100% New Zealand-grown malted barley, smoked using Manuka wood, double distilled in hand-beaten copper pot stills, and matured in an ex-New Zealand Pinot Noir cask. It has soft caramelised fruit character, with prunes, and sea salt notes building to a mild smoke and savoury mid-palate. An oily and slightly smoky finish.

Redbreast Single Pot Still 15YO
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $169.99
Pernod Ricard

Full and rich aromas of berry fruits and aromatic oils. On the palate, the whiskey is rounded and mellow with flavours of succulent fresh fruit combined with spices and toasted wood leading to a long finish.



Hibiki Harmony
43% ABV, 750ml RRP $179.99
Beam Suntory

From the Suntory Whisky collection, Hibiki has lifted aromas of rose and lychee over a hint of rosemary, wood and sandalwood. On the palate, there is a honeylike sweetness with candied orange peel and white chocolate. The finish is subtle with a touch of mizunara (Japanese oak).

The Yamazaki Distiller's Reserve
43% ABV, 700ml RRP $199.99
Beam Suntory

Lush red fruit dominates the aroma of this whisky from famed Japanese distiller Suntory, with strawberry and cherry sitting alongside a hint of mizunara (Japanese oak). The fruit persists on the palate with raspberry, white peach and a touch of coconut. The finish is clean with sweet vanilla and a hint of cinnamon.

South Island Single Malt 25YO
40% ABV, 350ml RRP $229
The NZ Whisky Collection

This whisky was made from 100% malted New Zealand barley in Dunedin's Willowbank distillery before its closure in 1997. It has been aged in American oak ex-bourbon barrels for at least 25 years and matured in NZWC's colonial seaside bonds store in Oamaru village. On the nose there are fresh golden fruits, sea salt spray, grassy peat and subtle smoke. The sweet fruits continue on the palate, supported by vanilla and light peat. The finish is light and silky with delicate oak and sweetness.

Jameson 18YO
40% ABV, 700ml RRP $289.99
Pernod Ricard

Jameson 18YO is the new presentation of Jameson 18YO Limited Reserve – it is the same whiskey with a new pack design. It's the pinnacle of the Jameson range, having been aged for a minimum of 18 years and finished in first fill bourbon casks. On the nose there are aromatic oils with a touch of wood and spicy toffee. It is mellow and smooth on the palate with fudge, toffee, spice, hints of wood and leather, vanilla and a gentle sherry nuttiness. The lingering finish carries wood, spice and toffee.

Hakushu 12YO
43.5% ABV, 700ml RRP $299.99
Beam Suntory

Suntory's Hakushu distillery is also known as the 'Mountain Forest Distillery', and this whiskey abounds with green fruit and herbal characters. Aromas of basil, pine needle and green apple lead to a palate of sweet pear, mint and kiwifruit. The finish has characters of green tea and subtle smoke.

Redbreast Single Pot Still 21YO
46% ABV, 700ml RRP $299.99
Pernod Ricard

The nose spans fresh tropical fruits, nuts and rich dried fruit. On the palate there is soft vanilla, toasted oak and sherry nuttiness with a dusting of pot still spices. Fleshy fruit notes and a creamy mouth feel. The long finish combines oak and pot still spices.

Glendalough 17YO Single Malt Limited Edition
46% ABV, 750ml RRP $380
Tickety-Boo

Released in December 2019, this whiskey spent 15 years in a first-fill bourbon cask and then two years in in Mizunara (Japanese oak). The time in Mizunara has added aromas of incense, woody spices and coconut as well as a creamy mouth-feel. The whiskey is sweet, spicy and smooth with citrus notes, sweet honey and vanilla.

Glendalough 25YO Single Malt Limited Edition
46%ABV, 700ml RRP $690
Tickety-Boo

Released in December 2019, the 25YO expression is the first Irish single malt ever to be aged in an Irish oak cask. Glendalough is one of just two distilleries felling Irish oak for barrels. The trees are 120-140 years old when felled, and just 14 are cut down each year, with seven more planted for each one taken. The whiskey has luxurious sweetness from 15 years in bourbon barrels, bold fruit flavour from 10 years in Oloroso sherry casks and a buttery, spicy quality from the Irish oak.

Ⓓ For distributor details see Distributor Index on page 84.



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Dominic Roskrow
UK-based world spirits expert
Editor - *Whisky Quarterly*

When the crystal ball fogs up

UK-based writer *Dominic Roskrow* reflects on what the world of whisky might look like post-pandemic…

"IF ONE more person talks about 'a new normal', I think I'm going to hit them."

Who can't empathise with this exclamation of frustration from one anonymous social media pundit? For in our increasingly dumbed down world of sound bites and slogans (thank you, Mr Trump), 'a new normal' is particularly dumbed down and meaningless.

There will be no 'new normal'. In the short and medium terms, certainly, there will be no new world order. The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't just cost the world hundreds of thousands of lives, it has tipped economies across the world on their heads, emptied their contents and strewn them far and wide, leaving us all to try and pick up the pieces.

And around the world, that's what we're now starting to do. The trouble is, different countries are tidying up at different rates. Where once the world economy worked in some form of harmony – the tectonic plates more or less shifting in the same direction – now it's shattered and scattered, and it's every person for themselves in a market free-for-all. Frankly, the view from the bar in Auckland right now is a million miles away from the view from the bar in Manchester. Even if you were allowed into the bar in Manchester.

All of which is a long-winded way of saying that while it has always been tricky predicting the future of the world of whisky, now the crystal ball is well and truly misted up.

Firstly, the fallout from the virus will no doubt shape how we approach our leisure activities for years to come. Some countries are coming out of lockdown, others not. Some may well come out of it only to be thrown back into it again. Some countries will return to bars and clubs as before, others, where the dangers have been greater, may never want to gather in great numbers indoors again. It seems you're better off outdoors than in, so countries with benign climates will respond to the situation differently to the United Kingdom, Scandinavia or much of America.

> "The world of whisky has shown itself to be highly creative when it comes to engaging enthusiasts."

Countries such as Australia and New Zealand will interact differently with each other than will Switzerland, Austria and Germany, who share land borders.

The world of whisky, however, has shown itself to be highly creative when it comes to engaging enthusiasts.

It may well be that never again will a global brand ambassador fly business class from Glasgow to Auckland, stay in a top hotel and host three or four dinners/tasting events for 20-30 bar managers, bloggers and opinion formers.

Instead, local brand ambassadors will host events simultaneously in cities across Australia and New Zealand and the global brand ambassador will link through a platform such as Zoom from one of his or her distilleries. In this way, he or she can take their viewers into the still rooms and warehouses, show them the rugged shoreline of Loch Indaal or the dramatic slopes of Benrinnes, adding a truly local flavour to proceedings.

The virus also encouraged us to take part in online interviews, desert Island dram evenings, quizzes, and question and answer sessions. My dislike of online tastings (previously sorry slap-bang-wallops of rushed, sycophantic nothingness), has been replaced by enjoyment of more considered seminar sessions with a top brand manager or master distiller.

Strangely, in an era of distancing, the virus has brought us closer and much of what we have learned during the pandemic will stay with us into the future. Whatever that might look like.



A Fresh New Look From Arran

Every drop of Arran Single Malt starts its life as Scottish rainwater, which pools at Loch Na Davie in the beautiful hills high above the distillery.

www.arranwhisky.com
@arranwhisky

Distributed in New Zealand by Tickety-Boo Liquor Ltd. Phone 09 377 7597 or email sales@tickety-boo.co.nz for further information. www.tickety-boo.co.nz



DB keeps some Odd Company

DB HAS launched a new RTD brand that taps into the rise of premiumisation and the growth of hard seltzers with its new Odd Company range of drinks.

Sean O'Donnell, DB Breweries Marketing Director, says the creation of Odd Company reflects Kiwis' changing tastes. "In the last year we've seen a big shift in what people are wanting out of a ready to drink product, with vodka and gin based RTDs up 36% and 57% respectively*. People are also wanting more from the products they consume than purely refreshment or great flavour. Odd Company has crafted a suite of drinks that are packed with flavour yet because they all use sparkling water as a mixer, they have less sugar than some other RTDs you will find on the shelf."

There are three variants in the Odd Company range:

- The Fancy One - Gin, cucumber & lime with sparkling water
- The Party Guy - Vodka, lemon, lime & yuzu with sparkling water
- The Cheeky One - Vodka, peach & passionfruit with sparkling water

The Odd Company - 5% ABV, RRP $25.99 (10 x 330ml can pack)

**Nielsen Total Defined Liquor MAT to 12.1.20*

Ⓓ DB

Three new whiskies from William Grant & Sons

Federal Merchants & Co has three new whiskies from William Grant & Sons now available to trade.

Aerstone is a new range, created to "simplify" the taste messaging in the single malt category. The 10YO single malt Scotch whisky is available in two expressions: Sea Cask 10 Year Old and Land Cask 10 Year Old.

William Grant & Sons says the new Aerstone range aims to help new single malt drinkers navigate the flavours of the category easily through clear taste descriptors on its packaging.

Sea Cask, described as "smooth and easy" on the label, is a classic Speyside-style single malt while Land Cask is described as "rich and smoky" and is a peated single malt.

Brian Kinsman, Master Blender at William Grant & Sons, says Aerstone offers two very different and evocative flavour profiles under one brand. "They are both inspired by the Scottish environment and raw elements where we age our whisky. With a 10-year age statement, people can expect a well-rounded single malt whisky with depth of flavours that will intrigue not only new drinkers, but also more experienced single malt enthusiasts.'

Grant's Triple Wood Smoky Whisky is also available now – a distinctive whisky aged in three woods with an expression of peat. Master Blender, Brian Kinsman, chooses grain and malt whiskies matured in three distinct woods (similar to Grant's Triple Wood blend) but ups the addition of peated whiskies for a smooth and fruity taste with subtle smokiness.



Ⓓ Federal Merchants

Cardrona offers new distillers course plus tours

Cardrona Distillery is launching a range of experiences at its Wanaka premises to cater to all levels of whisky lover. The original Classic Tour has returned and is joined by The Cardrona Family Reserve Tour, which is hosted by either Cardrona Master Distiller Sarah Elsom, or Kenny Vaugh, Operations Manager of Cardrona. The tours, which are limited to seven people, focus on warehousing and maturation. Guests will taste spirit directly from cask, and then select and hand-fill their own exclusive bottle of single cask Cardrona Single Malt Whisky, from a choice of three casks preselected from Cardrona's stocks. The Cardrona Family Reserve Tour is $350 per person, including the exclusive hand-dipped single cask bottle of Cardrona whisky, worth $200.

Also new is the Practical Distillers Course for Whisky, Gin & Vodka. The 5-day courses will run in August and November and will cover all the practical information required to understand distillation on a deeper level, with an interactive hands-on approach.

Cardrona Distillery will also offer 'Private Casks', following the tradition of many single malt distilleries in which a small number of casks are set aside for purchase. The team at Cardrona work with cask owners to assist their selection of their award-winning Cardrona Single Malt Whisky casks.



Ⓦ cardronadistillery.com

Stylish redesign for Glenfiddich 12 and 15YO

GLENFIDDICH HAS released a sophisticated new package design for its flagship 12 and 15 Year Old iconic whiskies that pays homage to its origins. The 12 Year Old is now known as 'Our Original Twelve', as a clear nod to Glenfiddich's signature expression, while the 15 Year Old has been rebranded as 'Our Solera Fifteen', to celebrate the brand's Solera system.

Glenfiddich means "The Valley of The Deer", and its location in Speyside, Scotland, is where William Grant, Glenfiddich's founder, built the distillery in 1887. To honour the brand's home, the new design features the clearly defined valley, cut into the face of the glass, to give a more chiselled profile. The iconic Stag symbol, embossed in gold, also features, with William Grant's signature emblazoned on the bottle top.

Claudia Falcone, Glenfiddich Global Brand Director said: "Our flagship range of expressions are some of the world's best-selling and most awarded single malts, so it was really important to reflect the undoubted quality of the liquid with a stunning and contemporary look."

Federal Merchants



Bitters from Beverage Brothers

Beverage Brothers is introducing a range of award-winning handcrafted bitters from Australian Bitters Co. to the New Zealand market. The premium selection of seven bitters are all made using natural botanical herbs and spices and won "Gold Medal, Bitters of the Year" at the New York Spirit Competition. Beverage Brothers says the user-friendly packaging for bartenders has been designed by the trade, for the trade. Available in 250ml format for Aromatic Bitters and 125ml for Orange, Barrel Spice, Coffee, Grapefruit, Chocolate & Smoke.



Beverage Brothers

Taste a divine duo.

How to make the Juno Gin-Gin

1. **Add one part Juno Gin Extra Fine.** This is Juno Gin's signature award-winning gin made from pure Taranaki mountain water, the finest botanicals and with artistry in the copper still.
2. **Combine it with three parts Fever-Tree Ginger Beer.** Made from a blend of three gingers (from Nigeria, Cochin and the Ivory Coast) this award-winning mixer has a deep, long-lasting ginger character and isn't too sweet on the palate.
3. **Squeeze in two or three wedges of lime and drop into the glass**
4. **Top with plenty of ice.** Kick back, relax and enjoy!

Find more great cocktail recipes:
junogin.co.nz

ORDER JUNO GIN: CONTACT EUROVINTAGE 0800 338 766





New Haku Vodka

BEAM SUNTORY New Zealand has launched premium spirit Haku Vodka from Japan's artisan House of Suntory. The premium craft vodka is made from 100% Japanese white rice and a unique distillation process captures the rice's sweet and subtle flavours. "We're thrilled to release Haku Vodka in New Zealand, completing the House of Suntory portfolio," says Ben Andrews, Marketing Manager. "It creates great opportunity for craft spirits enthusiasts to discover new tastes and experiences that further embody House of Suntory's quest for excellence."
Haku Vodka 700ml RRP $64.99

Beam Suntory

Drambuie moves to Federal Merchants & Co



The distribution of Drambuie will move to Federal Merchants & Co from 1 July, a shift from previous distributor Hancocks Wine, Spirit and Beer Merchants.

The move will complete Federal Merchants & Co.'s full representation of the William Grant & Sons portfolio in New Zealand. William Grant & Sons acquired the Drambuie brand in 2014.

"We are delighted to have Drambuie join our portfolio," says Aidin Dennis, Federal Merchants Chief Executive Officer. "We look forward to growing the brand's presence with some new trade and consumer initiatives."

Federal Merchants

SHOWCASE

Stylish new look for Isle of Arran whisky

Scottish distillery Isle of Arran has updated its range of whiskies with new bespoke bottles and labels designed to highlight the purity of the liquid inside. It has released its four core range products with the new look and these are now available through New Zealand distributor Tickety-Boo. This includes the Barrel Reserve, 10YO Single Malt, Quarter Cask, and Sherry Cask.

The contemporary new bottle design highlights the importance of water purity in whisky distilling by reflecting the journey of the water source for the Arran single malts. 'Ripples' on the shoulder and base of the bottles show the water's beginnings in the island's Loch na Davie and how it cascades towards the distillery through a series of six small mountain waterfalls.

The labels feature the eagles that are entwined with the distillery's history: their nesting season prompted a break in its construction in 1994 and they have stayed in residence for the past 25 years.

They identify the type of whisky (also in Braille), the wood used, the GPS coordinates of the distillery, and tasting notes for each one from Master Distiller James McTaggart.

Rob Gray, Isle of Arran's head of international sales and marketing for Asia Pacific, says the notes are a key addition. "If you're going to spend money on a bottle of whisky, it's really important to actually know what you're going to be getting and tasting. The new packaging is detail driven, which is what single malt is."

Isle of Arran has been producing whisky at its Lochranza distillery on its namesake island in the Firth of Clyde since 1998, although the area's whisky heritage dates back several hundred years.

The company has also recently built a second distillery, Lagg, which will focus solely on peated whisky. Its first spirit came off the still in June last year and it is expected to release its first product in 2022.

Tickety-Boo Liquor



Isle of Arran range

Arran Barrel Reserve – NEW

A vibrant entry-level single malt. It's 100% matured in first-fill bourbon barrels and combines casks at 7-8 years old with older casks to create a fresh and versatile introduction to Arran Single Malt.

Quarter Cask – NEW

A cask strength whisky (56.2% ABV) aged for 8-10 years, matured in bourbon casks and then finished in quarter casks (40-80 litre casks) to add more intense cask influence and ramp up the bourbon spice character.

Sherry Cask – NEW BLEND

A new blend of Arran Sherry Cask – this version of Sherry Cask is 100% matured in sherry casks for eight years, rather than being sherry-finished. Bottled at cask strength of 55.8%.

Arran 10YO Single Malt

An award-winning updated release. The 10YO is now slightly more sherried, bringing its nutty spiciness forward. Matured in ex-sherry and ex-bourbon casks.

Machrie Moor

The peated expression of Arran Single Malt is a gentle whisky full of sweetness and smoke. At 20ppm it's an excellent introduction to peated whisky. It takes its name from the Machrie Moor peat bog on the Isle of Arran.

GIN CURIOSITY





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www.curiositygin.com @curiositygin

Now distributed by Beverage Brothers

Finery with Federal Merchants



THE FINE People, creators of Finery, a new offering in the ever-growing Better For You category, have entered into a distribution partnership with Federal Merchants & Co.

Federal Merchants & Co. began distributing The Fine People's range of Premium Vodka Cocktails in March. Finery cocktails are available in four flavours and are unpasteurised and free from sugar, carbohydrates and gluten.

Federal Merchants

SHOWCASE

New arrivals from Ireland's Glendalough

Boutique Irish distillery Glendalough is set for big things as a new owner looks to expand the company's global market for its gins and whiskeys, and new products arrive in New Zealand via distributor Tickety-Boo Liquor.

Mark Anthony Brands (owners of US cult brand White Claw hard seltzer, among others) acquired the remaining 60% stake in Glendalough in December 2019, having been a 40% stakeholder since 2014.

Jenny Maguire, Market Manager for Glendalough Distillery, was in New Zealand for DramFest in early March and says the purchase had been in the pipeline for a while. "It's really exciting for us because it's just business as usual – they've taken on all the employees and the difference is that it's a very bright future for us. We're the first distillery they've dabbled with which is really fun and obviously given the success of their other brands it's just really exciting to be a part of it."

While in New Zealand, Maguire presented the new additions to the hugely successful Glendalough range. The distillery is best known here for its Wild Botanical Gin and distinctive Rose Gin, but is now adding more products to its whiskey line-up in New Zealand.

Tickety-Boo is now stocking the newly released Glendalough Pot Still Whiskey and Limited Edition Glendalough 17YO and 25YO Single Malts, in addition to the Glendalough Double Barrel Irish Single Malt and Triple Barrel Irish whiskeys. Tickety-Boo Managing Director, Kevin Rowe, says they are also hoping to get some of the very limited edition gins that Glendalough produces, given New Zealanders' growing interest in new and diverse gin expressions.



Glendalough range in NZ

Pot Still Whiskey – NEW

A quintessentially Irish whiskey that uses Irish oak barrels for finishing (Glendalough is one of just two distilleries doing this). The trees are 120-140 years old and just 14 are felled each year, with seven more planted for each one. The label shows the individual bottle, cask and tree numbers.

17YO Single Malt – NEW

Released in December 2019, this whiskey spent 15 years in bourbon barrels and two years in Mizunara (Japanese oak).

25YO Single Malt – NEW

Also released in December 2019, the 25YO expression spent 15 years in bourbon barrels, 10 years in Oloroso sherry casks and was finished in Irish oak barrels that were made using the first Irish oak that Glendalough felled. The Irish oak gives a buttery, spicy quality to the whiskey.

Double Barrel Irish Single Malt Whiskey

Glendalough's biggest selling whiskey is a double distilled single grain whiskey using 90% corn and 10% malted barley. It's aged in bourbon barrels for 3½ years and finished in Oloroso sherry barrels.

Triple Barrel Irish Whiskey

This whiskey is aged in bourbon barrels then finished in sherry and Madeira casks. It won gold at the Irish Whiskey Awards in late 2019.



Wild Botanical Gin

Glendalough's own forager gathers all the wild botanicals for this complex gin, which is described as "Ireland in a glass."

Rose Gin

This popular gin was created by Glendalough head distiller Ciaran Rooney as a one-off for his brother's wedding to toast his late mother, whose name was Rose. It uses a more floral version of the Wild Botanical Gin as its base, with the addition of wild Irish roses, damask roses, heritage roses and petals from Rooney's mother's garden. An infusion of fresh dark crimson rose petals gives the gin its natural hue.

Tickety-Boo Liquor

Curiosity Gin joins Beverage Brothers

CURIOSITY GIN and The Spirit Workshop Ltd will now be distributed by Beverage Brothers, joining the portfolio of New Zealand craft and boutique spirits. Curiosity Gin introduced new packaging in 2019 and has five gins in its range: Dry, Recipe 23, Pinot Barrel Sloe, Ruby, and Negroni. Danny Parke, Beverage Brothers Marketing & Operations Manager, says they're delighted to be working with Curiosity. "At times like this it's even more important to be able to support New Zealand brands. Making these Kiwi-owned brands easily accessible to fellow Kiwis is just an awesome feeling!"

Ⓓ Beverage Brothers



World title for Kiwi liqueur

The Damson Collection's Damson Plum Liqueur has been named the best fruit liqueur in the world at the World Liqueur Awards 2020. The liqueur, made by Distillerie Deinlein in the Bay of Plenty, is made from Hawke's Bay plums and a citrus-dominant gin. It took the Best New Zealand Fruit Liqueur gold award and the top honour of World's Best Fruit Liqueur.

The awards were announced in late April after judging of more than 150 entries, all tasted in isolation at home by 14 industry experts.

The judges praised the Damson Plum Liqueur for its "aromas of tropical candy initially, before being presented with acidic notes on the palate" saying it was "vibrant in flavour" and had lingering notes of tropical fruit.

Damson Plum Liqueur (15% ABV), 375ml RRP $35.

Ⓓ The Damson Collection



SHOWCASE





Buffalo Trace named Distillery of the Year 2020

Kentucky's Buffalo Trace has been named Distillery of the Year by *Tasting Panel Magazine* at the 2020 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

This prestigious award recognises the single distiller earning the most points, measured by the number and level of awards won in a given year. That honour was bestowed on Buffalo Trace Distillery after its spirits garnered a total of 18 medals and a Best in Class designation. This includes five Double Gold medals, four Gold medals, six Silver medals and three Bronze medals and the title of 'Best Small Batch Bourbon 11 Years and Older' for its Eagle Rare 17 Year Old.

"Our focus has always been on making quality spirits, so this honour motivates us to continue the hard work and maintain the high standards we've set for ourselves," says Master Distiller Harlen Wheatley. "This is an ongoing team effort. We're very proud and thankful for the work every one of our team members puts forth for our whiskeys to reach this level of recognition."

Garnering more than 1,000 awards over the years, this Distillery of the Year title further underscores Buffalo Trace's commitment to produce excellent spirits. As its collection of honours continues to grow, so too does the popularity of Buffalo Trace's whiskeys and spirits. With the second phase of its Distillery expansion underway, Buffalo Trace is making significant progress on its $1.2 billion investment to expand its distilling capabilities and make more award-winning whiskey.

Ⓓ Buffalo Trace is proudly distributed in New Zealand by Federal Merchants & Co.

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Purely Elemental

Elemental Distillers was marking a year in its Marlborough distillery when COVID-19 arrived and spirits gave way to sanitiser. Co-founder Ben Leggett explains how they got through and their explosive plans for a special new release...



On how Elemental Distillers came about...

It was a professional pipedream of mine from the time my wife and I decided to move back to New Zealand after 14 years working in the UK spirits industry. Any true realisation of this dream wouldn't come about, however, until I was introduced to Simon through a mutual friend. We both have two kids each under five and appreciate the constant balancing act between business and family. This mutual empathy (and occasional paternal meltdown) is one of the things that makes us such great business partners.


Simon Kelly and Ben Leggett

"Standing on the balcony of your own distillery and drinking your own gin is a pretty good feeling."

On the past few months...

It's been, in a word: 'crazy'. We were already making plans to produce sanitiser from our gin heads and tails when news of the virus came out overseas. By the time it hit New Zealand and lockdown was announced we were already ahead and became one of the first food producers in the country to convert into full-scale production.

Thanks to a well-timed article on Stuff, word got out and we spent the first two weeks of lockdown converting fully into cosmetic pharmacopoeia, my wife helping to manage the hundreds of daily email enquiries while I was producing and fighting for access to further ethanol, packaging and EPA approval.

We now produce "Heads & Tails Gin Scented Sanitiser" from the heads and tails (see what we did there) of our gin runs. The 30ml pocket atomizer bottles of sanitiser spray are complimentary with every bottle of Roots Dry Gin sold in store and online, while we also sell 1L refill bottles to national businesses or hospitality venues. All of our sanitiser is 80% alc/vol and conforms to the 'WHO recommended handrub formulation'.

On how the business has diversified since launch...

We've just completed our first full year of operation and are still evolving and diversifying. Now that we have Roots Dry Gin in play and the distillery has gone through a thorough run (and survived lockdown), we've also begun offering boutique contracting services targeting high-end clients interested in a premium but bespoke run of gin from 150-300 bottles at a time. It's perfect for premium lodges, department stores or hospitality groups interested in their own recipe and labelled gin. We also love working with customers where we can personalise botanical recipes from their local area.

We also offer consultancy, run a number of consumer spirits workshops and work alongside the NZ School of Wines & Spirits as their Lead Spirits Tutor and WSET educator.

On the reaction to their new distillery/tasting room...

Since we're a small operation we can only open our tasting room by appointment as we need to step away from production to host, but it's one of the most pleasurable parts of the business. Standing on the balcony of your own distillery and drinking your own gin is a pretty good feeling. Overall reaction has been amazing, also to the stories on the wall that represent a national traceability map of growers, as well as images of our local volunteer events and even the people behind the foraging of our juniper in the highlands of North Macedonia. Transparency is everything for us.

On where to from here...

To some degree, the ship has been righted and thanks also to an explosion in online spirit sales and the market now flooded with sanitiser products, we're back on gin production. The Navy Strength expression of Roots Marlborough Dry Gin is definitely going to happen, and with the addition of New Zealand hemp in the recipe (Navy and hemp: long history), it promises to be special. We also have the country's most qualified explosives expert lined up to help 'blow up our gin' with original black powder no less!

We're still keen to look at an Amaro built from Marlborough aromatic wine stock and have a Marlborough damson, kawakawa and allspice liqueur completing its 12 month maceration in time for Christmas. And we're coordinating the first of a collection of regional cocktail competitions where the grand prize is a night in Marlborough and the chance to create and distil your own gin recipe at the distillery.

The rest of the year will be a reveal for everyone but we're all in it together so we're looking at ways we can help support and collaborate our on- and off-premise partners while remaining proactive on our own growth plans. This has already been a dream realised for me, but with so much yet to prove it's head back down and 'keep on keeping on'.

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