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SAN FRANCISCO WORLD  
**SPIRITS** COMPETITION

**FOR:**  
**San Francisco World Spirits Competition**  
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### **Medal and Premium Award Winners Announced from 16th Annual San Francisco World Spirits Competition®**

(March 29, 2016; San Francisco, Calif.)-The San Francisco World Spirits Competition®, the nation's largest and most influential of its kind, has announced the medal and award recipients from its 16th annual competition, held March 17th through 20th at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. Out of this year's record-breaking 1,899 entries, only 201 were awarded the prestigious Double Gold medal by the 39-person judging panel. A full list of medals and premium awards, broken down by category, will be posted to [www.sfspiritscomp.com](http://www.sfspiritscomp.com) on April 4th.

"The San Francisco World Spirits Competition® is the most influential in the industry and winning a medal here is very meaningful," says competition director Anthony Dias Blue. "We have the industry's most respected experts serving as judges, and every entry is blind-tasted under highly focused conditions. There is no better way to discern quality and identify trends."

With a 20% increase in entries over the prior year, the 2016 competition has continued its linear growth from 292 entries at the inaugural 2000 competition. Some of the most notable growth this year was seen in Gin with 197 entries (up from 136 in 2015), Vodka with 209 entries (up from 172 in 2015), and in the Craft Distiller category with 57 entries (up from 22 in 2015).

The competition is also receiving a wider variety of entries from diverse categories and regions. "Because the San Francisco World Spirits Competition® is the biggest, we receive more and more products from around the world,"

says Levi Walker of Campari America. "It's exciting every year to taste more Baijius from China, Mezcal from Mexico, and Jenevers from Holland."

One of the regions making its first appearance at the competition was Réunion Island, with Rhums & Punchs Isautier winning Best Rhum Agricole and a Double Gold for its Isautier Blanc Rhum Agricole. Another country making its debut this year was Armenia, with three Ararat Brandy entries winning one Gold and two Silver medals.

**Premium Awards** Leading winners from the sweepstakes included **Best in Show Un-Aged White Spirit**, which went to Pisco La Caravedo Puro Torontel, Hacienda La Caravedo, marking the third straight year a Pisco has won this category. **Best in Show Aged White Spirit** went to Siete Leguas Reposado Tequila. **Best in Show Whiskey** went to Redbreast 21 Year Old Irish Whiskey, making it the first time an Irish Whiskey has won the award. **Best in Show Brandy** went to Armagnac Janneau 18 Year Old Armagnac XO. **Best in Show Liqueur** went to Fiji Rum Co. Coffee Rum Liqueur. Other highlights included **Best Gin**, which went to Calyx 2015 Edition Gin. **Best Bourbon** went to Four Roses 2015 Limited Edition Small Batch Bourbon. **Best Vodka** went to Georgian Bay Vodka. **Best Rum** went to Rum Cartavio 18 Year Old XO Rum.

Awarded annually, this year's **Tasting Panel Magazine Distillery of the Year** went to Bunnahabhain Distillery of Islay, Scotland, whose 25 Year Old Single Malt Scotch also won **Best Scotch**. **Importer of the Year** went to Pernod Ricard, New York, USA and the **Director's Award of Excellence** went to Four Roses Distillery, Kentucky, USA. In the Packaging Competition this year there were 18 Double Gold medals awarded.

## Judges

The judging panel was comprised of 39 industry experts, with many returning to the roster, including noted spirits writer and author **David Wondrich**, writer and photographer **Richard Carleton Hacker**, Master mixologist **Dale DeGroff**, and **Tony Abou-Ganim**, aka the Modern Mixologist, serving as Director of Judging for his 7th year.

Spirits educator and consultant **Stephen Beal**, who has served as a judge since the competition's inception, comments "The best palates in the world come to this competition, and the biggest personalities in the spirits business come here as well. We have a mixture of technical experts, historians, bartenders, and industry professionals. Every panel is very interesting and every product gets its own special look from several perspectives. This is why if you win a Double Gold or Best in Class award here, you can become an internationally acclaimed brand."



*First-time judges Scott Ellis (US Western Regional Manager, Compass Box) and Charlotte Voisey (Director, Brand Advocacy, William Grant & Sons), Director of Judging Tony Abou-Ganim, returning judge Dale Degroff, & Executive Director Anthony Dias Blue*

For a full list of judges, please visit <http://sfspiritscomp.com/about/judges>.

## About San Francisco World Spirits Competition®

Founded in 2000, the San Francisco World Spirits Competition® is America's most respected and influential international spirits event. Products are evaluated in a blind, consensual procedure ensuring the SFWSC maintains its reputation for the highest level of integrity. Winning participants receive the awards of double gold, gold, silver or bronze, marking their product as one of the highest quality in the world. [www.sfspiritscomp.com](http://www.sfspiritscomp.com)



SAN FRANCISCO WORLD  
**SPIRITS** COMPETITION

2016 COMPETITION WINNERS

**BEST IN SHOW**

**THE TASTING PANEL MAGAZINE  
DISTILLERY OF THE YEAR**

**Bunnahabhain Distillery**, Islay, Scotland

**IMPORTER OF THE YEAR**

**Pernod Ricard**, New York, U.S.A.

**DIRECTOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

**Four Roses Distillery**, Kentucky, U.S.A.

**BEST IN SHOW UNAGED WHITE**

**BEST PISCO**

**Pisco La Caravedo Puro Torontel**, Hacienda La Caravedo, Ica, Peru  
DESTILERIA LA CARAVEDO SRL ALCOHOL: 41% RETAIL PRICE: \$22

**BEST IN SHOW AGED WHITE**

**BEST TEQUILA**

**BEST REPOSADO TEQUILA**

**Siete Leguas Reposado Tequila**, Jalisco, Mexico  
SAZERAC COMPANY, INC. ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$52

**BEST IN SHOW WHISKEY**

**BEST IRISH WHISKEY**

**BEST PURE POT STILL IRISH WHISKEY**

**Redbreast 21 Year Old Irish Whiskey**, Ireland  
PERNOD RICARD U.S.A. ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$250

**BEST IN SHOW BRANDY**

**BEST ARMAGNAC**

**Armagnac Janneau 18 Years Old Armagnac XO**, Gers, France  
SPIRIT FRANCE DIFFUSION ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$180

**BEST IN SHOW LIQUEUR**

**BEST COFFEE LIQUEUR**

**Fiji Rum Co Coffee Rum Liqueur**, Lautoka, Fiji  
PARADISE BEVERAGES (FIJI) LIMITED ALCOHOL: 25% RETAIL PRICE: \$70

**BEST VODKA**

**Georgian Bay Vodka**, Ontario, Canada  
GEORGIAN BAY SPIRIT CO. ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$40

**BEST FLAVORED VODKA**

**Art in the Age Beet Root Flavored Vodka**, New Hampshire, U.S.A.  
TAMWORTH DISTILLING ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$30

**BEST AQUAVIT**

**Long Road Aquavit**, Michigan, U.S.A.  
LONG ROAD DISTILLERS ALCOHOL: 45% RETAIL PRICE: \$18

**BEST GIN**

**Calyx 2015 Edition Gin**, California, U.S.A.  
ASCENDANT SPIRITS, INC. ALCOHOL: 47.5% RETAIL PRICE: \$47

**BEST FLAVORED GIN**

**Stonecutter Spirits Single Barrel Gin**, Vermont, U.S.A.  
STONECUTTER SPIRITS ALCOHOL: 45% RETAIL PRICE: \$55

**BEST SHOCHU**

**Yakushima Daishizenrin Shochu**, Kagoshima, Japan  
HOMBO SHUZO CO.,LTD ALCOHOL: 25% RETAIL PRICE: \$11

**BEST BAIJIU**

**Kinmen 58% Kaoliang Liquor**, Kinmen County, Taiwan  
KINMEN KAOLIANG LIQUOR INC ALCOHOL: 58%

**BEST RUM • BEST EXTRA-AGED RUM**

**Rum Cartavio 18 Year Old XO Rum**, Cartavio, Peru  
CARTAVIO RUM COMPANY SAC ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$75

**BEST FLAVORED RUM**

**The Grove Caribbean Spiced Rum**, Australia  
THE GROVE EXPERIENCE ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$45

**BEST RHUM AGRICOLE**

**Isautier Blanc Rhum Agricole**, Reunion Island  
RHUMS & PUNCHS ISAUTIER ALCOHOL: 55% RETAIL PRICE: \$11

**BEST CACHAÇA**

**Sebastiana Duas Barricas Cachaça**, Sao Paulo, Brasil  
ALAMBIQUE SANTA RUFINA ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$40

**BEST SILVER/GOLD (UNAGED) TEQUILA**

**Gran Orendain Blanco Tequila**, Jalisco, México  
TEQUILA ORENDAIN DE JALISCO S.A. DE C.V. ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$35

**BEST AÑEJO TEQUILA**

**El Tesoro Añejo Tequila**, Jalisco, Mexico  
BEAM SUNTORY ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$60

## BEST MEZCAL

**Mezcal Tribal Ensemble 103**, Santiago Matatlán, Oaxaca, Mexico  
GRUPO EMPRESARIAL TRIBAL SAPI DE CV ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$80

## BEST STRAIGHT BOURBON

**Buffalo Trace Kentucky Straight Bourbon**, Kentucky, U.S.A.  
SAZERAC COMPANY, INC. ALCOHOL: 45% RETAIL PRICE: \$25

## BEST BOURBON • BEST SMALL BATCH BOURBON

**Four Roses 2015 Limited Edition Small Batch Bourbon**,  
Kentucky, U.S.A.  
FOUR ROSES DISTILLERY ALCOHOL: 54% RETAIL PRICE: \$110

## BEST SINGLE BARREL BOURBON

**Four Roses Single Barrel Bourbon**, Kentucky, U.S.A.  
FOUR ROSES DISTILLERY ALCOHOL: 50% RETAIL PRICE: \$43

## BEST SPECIAL BARREL-FINISHED BOURBON

**Jos. A. Magnus & Co. Joseph Magnus Straight Bourbon**,  
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.  
JOS. A. MAGNUS & CO. ALCOHOL: 50% RETAIL PRICE: \$92

## BEST CRAFT DISTILLER WHISKY

**Starward Single Malt Wine Cask Whisky**, Melbourne, Australia  
NEW WORLD WHISKY DISTILLERY ALCOHOL: 41% RETAIL PRICE: \$63

## BEST CORN WHISKEY

**Ironroot Republic Hubris Whiskey 2016 Vintage**, Texas, U.S.A.  
IRONROOT REPUBLIC DISTILLING ALCOHOL: 58% RETAIL PRICE: \$55

## BEST RYE

**Lock Stock and Barrel 16 Year Old Straight Rye Whiskey**,  
Philadelphia, U.S.A.  
THE COOPER SPIRITS CO. ALCOHOL: 53% RETAIL PRICE: \$150

## BEST CANADIAN RYE WHISKY

**Lot No. 40 Canadian Whisky**, Canada  
CORBY SPIRIT AND WINE LIMITED ALCOHOL: 43% RETAIL PRICE: \$45

## BEST OTHER WHISKY

**Kavalan Solist Moscatel Sherry Cask Single Malt Whisky**,  
**Single Cask Strength**, Yilan, Taiwan  
KING CAR FOOD INDUSTRIAL/KAVALAN DISTILLERY ALC.: 57.1% RET. PRICE: \$525

## BEST BLENDED IRISH WHISKEY

**Midleton Very Rare Blended Irish Whiskey**, Ireland  
PERNOD RICARD U.S.A. ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$125

## BEST SINGLE MALT IRISH WHISKEY

**Hyde 10 Year Old Pure Single Malt Irish Whiskey**, Ireland  
HYDE IRISH WHISKEY ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$79

## BEST BLENDED SCOTCH

**BEST BLENDED SCOTCH - 16 YRS & OLDER**  
**Chivas Regal Original Legend 25 Year Old Blended Scotch**,  
Speyside, Scotland  
PERNOD RICARD U.S.A. ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$250

## BEST BLENDED SCOTCH - NO AGE STATEMENT

**Rock Oyster Blended Scotch**, Islay, Scotland  
DOUGLAS LAING & CO. LTD ALCOHOL: 48% RETAIL PRICE: \$61

## BEST DISTILLERS' SINGLE MALT SCOTCH - UP TO 12 YRS

**Benromach Imperial Proof Single Malt Scotch**,  
Speyside, Scotland  
GORDON & MACPHAIL ALCOHOL: 57%

## BEST DISTILLERS' SINGLE MALT SCOTCH - 13-19 YRS

**Tomatin 18 Year Old Single Malt Scotch**, Highlands, Scotland  
THE TOMATIN DISTILLERY ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$100

## BEST SCOTCH

**BEST DISTILLERS' SINGLE MALT SCOTCH**  
**BEST DISTILLERS' SINGLE MALT SCOTCH - 20 YRS & OLDER**  
**Bunnahabhain 25 Year Old Single Malt Scotch**, Islay, Scotland  
BURN STEWART DISTILLERS ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$297

## BEST DISTILLERS' SINGLE MALT SCOTCH - NO AGE STATEMENT

**Glenfarclas 105 Cask Strength Single Malt Scotch**,  
Highland, Scotland  
SAZERAC COMPANY, INC. ALCOHOL: 60% RETAIL PRICE: \$90

## BEST INDEPENDENT MERCHANT SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

**Inchmurrin LL Island Collection 18 Year Old Single Malt Scotch**,  
Scotland  
LOCH LOMOND GROUP ALCOHOL: 46% RETAIL PRICE: \$120

## BEST BLENDED MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

**Monkey Shoulder Blended Malt Scotch**, Scotland  
WILLIAM GRANT & SONS ALCOHOL: 43%

## BEST COGNAC VS

**Cognac Philbert Vintage Grande Champagne Rare Cask**  
**Finish Sherry Cognac**, Cognac, France  
COGNAC PHILBERT ALCOHOL: 41.5% RETAIL PRICE: \$45

## BEST COGNAC VSOP

**A. De Fussygny Petite Champ Cognac VSOP**, Charente, France  
COGNAC A. DE FUSSIGNY ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$60

## BEST COGNAC • BEST COGNAC XO

**GAUTIER Pinar del Rio Cognac XO**, Charente, France  
COGNAC GAUTIER ALCOHOL: 41.2%

## BEST COGNAC EXTRA-AGED

**Bache-Gabrielsen Sérénité Extra Cognac**, Cognac, France  
THS BACHE-GABRIELSEN SAS ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$150

## BEST APPLE BRANDY

**Arkansas Black Straight Applejack**, California, U.S.A.  
TIMBERLANE LLC ALCOHOL: 49% RETAIL PRICE: \$55

## BEST SPANISH GRAPE BRANDY / BRANDY DE JEREZ

**Torres Jaime I 30 Year Old Brandy**, Spain  
MIGUEL TORRES S.A. ALCOHOL: 38% RETAIL PRICE: \$100

## BEST FRUIT LIQUEUR

**Grand Marnier Quintessence Liqueur**, Cognac, France  
MARNIER LAPOSTOLLE, LLC ALCOHOL: 40% RETAIL PRICE: \$900

## BEST OTHER LIQUEUR

**Faretti Biscotti Liqueur**, Italy  
CHATHAM IMPORTS, INC. ALCOHOL: 28% RETAIL PRICE: \$28

## BEST PASTIS

**Tarquin's Cornish Pastis**, United Kingdom  
SOUTHWESTERN DISTILLERY LTD ALCOHOL: 42% RETAIL PRICE: \$50

## BEST APÉRITIF

**Punt e Mes Vermouth**, Milan, Italy  
INFINIUM SPIRITS / WILSON DANIELS ALCOHOL: 16% RETAIL PRICE: \$19