



The Washington Cup Competition

A Competition for American-Made Spiritous Liqueurs

September 2, 2014
For Immediate Release

FINAL COMPETITION RESULTS

The Washington Cup Competition has released its final results and out of a field of nearly 130 American made spirits, the Washington Cup judges have bestowed Washington Cups upon six spirits. Moreover, they have chosen to recognize almost one hundred spirits as deserving of medals. While this might be a lower percentage of awards than any other competition provides, the judges of the Washington Cup strongly believe that these results are based upon merit and not upon preconceived minimums (as so often happens with competitions). Instead, we hold that these awards reflect the state of distilling in America – with so many new distillers and distilleries, there is still much to be learned.

Nonetheless, the Washington Cup is delighted to bring the public and trade's attention to a number of spirits, both new and well established, that we believe are excellent and genuinely American made. A scant decade ago, there were only a handful of small craft distilleries; today there are more than six hundred. Some of the newest among these are first-rate, and they have received their appropriate praise in these early results of the Washington Cup.

The Washington Cup is the first competition of its kind – a competition exclusively for American made spirits and liqueurs. We seek to provide an opportunity for the best of these new distilleries to demonstrate their skills and the excellence of their products on a level playing field. By creating the Washington Cup, our goal is to bring attention to new and established high quality American spirits and liqueurs. The Washington Cup Spirits Competition is also unique in that there were three distinct phases to the competition:

JUDGES' CHOICE: First Round, Professional Spirits Judging and Analysis on July 1, 2014 in which a group of professional tasters evaluated all spirits in a blind setting by category. Silver and Gold winners advanced to the next round.

BARTENDERS' CHOICE: Second Round, Mixology testing and recipe creation on July 29, 2014 in which a group of professional bartenders blind tasted the spirits, and then created cocktails for their top scoring spirits.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Third Round, Consumers' Preference Tasting and Judging on August 23, 2014 in which consumers blind tasted the top eleven spirits in cocktail form and voted upon all of them in preference order.

After the First and Second Rounds, 103 spirits had received Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards. The Third and final Round of the Washington Cup represented yet another unique aspect of the process, unlike any other in the world. The top eleven Gold Award winners were tasted by the general public at the Paris of the Plains Cocktail Festival August 23, 2014. The assembled throng tasted those six Gold Medal winners in cocktail form in a blind setting and voted for their favorites. The three spirits that received a plurality of votes were awarded Washington Cups, reflecting that they had been tasted and evaluated not only by professionals but also by an enthusiastic crowd of cocktail fans.

We believe that the Washington Cup's focus upon a democratic approach towards spirits tasting and assessment reflects our nation's founding father's own steadfast belief in a new political system that allowed the people to speak as loudly as the powerful. George Washington, along with his other brothers in freedom, saw the merit of a democracy in which a meritocracy (the Executive branch) shared power alongside the people's direct representatives (Congress), with an impartial and experienced group providing oversight (the Judiciary). With the Washington Cup, we have tried to create a series of tastings that mirror our remarkable system of government.

As an unprecedented service to each of the brands involved, the spirits that competed for a Washington Cup Award receive the top recipe developed by the bartenders. The Washington Cup does not levy an additional charge for this service.

Winning spirits were showcased at the Festival Gala, the culminating event of the Paris of the Plains Cocktail Festival, with many media and cocktail celebrities in attendance. We hope that these events reflect well upon the tremendous heritage of George Washington, and speak to the great spirits now marking the diverse American landscape.

THE WASHINGTON CUP WINNERS

Black Star Farms – Spirit of Apple Brandy

Black Star Farms – Spirit of Cherry Brandy

Buffalo Trace Distillery - Sazerac Straight Rye Whiskey

Dark Horse Distillery – Reunion Rye Whiskey Barrel Strength

Knob Creek Distillery – Single Barrel Reserve Whiskey

Ransom Spirits – Ransom Dry Gin

OTHER AWARD WINNERS

Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling Company – Pearse Lyons Reserve Whiskey (Gold Medal), Town Branch Bourbon (Silver Medal), Town Branch Rye (Silver Medal)

Altitude Spirits – Vodka 14 (Bronze Medal)

Azzurre Ultra Premium Spirits – Azzurre Vodka (Bronze Medal)

Big Bottom Whiskey – Barlow Trail American Blended Whiskey (Silver Medal)

Black Hills Dakota Distillery – Sturgis Shine (Bronze Medal)

Black Star Farms – Spirit of Apple Brandy (WASHINGTON CUP), Spirit of Cherry Brandy (WASHINGTON CUP), Spirit of Pear Brandy (Silver Medal)

Blaum Bros. Distilling Co. – Blaum Bros. Vodka (Gold Medal), Blaum Bros. Gin (Silver Medal), Lead Mine Moonshine (Bronze Medal), Hellfyre Vodka (Bronze Medal)

Buffalo Trace Distillery – Sazerac Straight Rye Whiskey (WASHINGTON CUP)

BuonCello – Lemon Creamy Liqueur (Silver Medal), Lemon Mint Creamy Liqueur (Bronze Medal), Orange Creamy Liqueur (Bronze Medal), Orange Pineapple Creamy Liqueur (Bronze Medal)

C88 Holdings – Rivulet Artisan Pecan Liqueur (Gold Medal)

CH Distillery – CH Amaro (Silver Medal)

Cooperstown Distillery – Fenimore Gin (Bronze Medal), Glimmerglass Vodka (Bronze Medal)

Dark Corner Distillery – Moonshine Corn Whiskey (Bronze Medal)

Dark Horse Distillery – Reunion Rye Whiskey Barrel Strength (WASHINGTON CUP), Reunion Rye Whiskey (Silver Medal), Reserve Bourbon Whiskey (Bronze Medal)

DE'OR Vodka – Sway Ultra Premium Vodka (Silver Medal), Sway Cranberry-Lemon Vodka (Bronze Medal)

Death's Door Spirits – Wondermint Peppermint Schnapps (Silver Medal), Kringle Cream Liqueur (Bronze Medal)

Florida Farm Distillers – Palm Ridge Reserve Whiskey (Silver Medal), Palm Ridge Virgin Whiskey (Bronze Medal)

4 Spirits Distillery – 4 Spirits Vodka (Silver Medal)

Grand River Spirits – Baby Bourbon (Bronze Medal), Baby Whiskey (Bronze Medal) Red Eye Lemonade Moonshine (Bronze Medal)

Haleakala Distillers – Maui Dark Rum (Silver Medal), Maui Gold Rum (Bronze Medal), Maui Reserve Gold Rum (Bronze Medal)

Hamilton Distillers – Whiskey Del Bac - Mesquite Smoked (Bronze Medal)

Hill Country Distillers – Texas Moonshine - Jalepeno (Bronze Medal), Texas Moonshine - Prickly Pear Cactus (Bronze Medal)

J.K. Williams Distilling – Young Buck Bourbon (Bronze Medal)

Knob Creek Distillery – Single Barrel Reserve (WASHINGTON CUP), Bourbon (Gold Medal), Smoked Maple (Gold Medal), Rye (Gold Medal)

Loon Liquors – Loonshine (Silver Medal)

Louisiana Spirits – Bayou Silver Rum (Bronze Medal), Bayou Spiced Rum (Bronze Medal)

Mississippi River Distilling Company – Cody Road Bourbon (Bronze Medal), Cody Road Rye (Bronze Medal)

Missouri State University – Grape Shine (Silver Medal), Apple Liqueur (Bronze Medal)

Montelle Distillery – Cherry Eau de Vie (Gold Medal), Peach Eau de Vie (Silver Medal)

Nelson's Green Brier Distillery – Belle Meade Bourbon (Silver Medal)

New England Distilling – Eight Bells Rum (Silver Medal), Ingenium Dry Gin (Silver Medal), Gunpowder Rye Whiskey (Bronze Medal)

Norseman Distillery – Vodka (Silver Medal), Gin (Bronze Medal), Rum (Bronze Medal)

O'Begley – Poitin (Bronze Medal)

Of The Earth Farm Distillery – Ray County Rye (Bronze Medal)

Old Sugar Distillery – Queen Jennie Sorghum Whiskey (Gold Medal), Americanaki Ouzo (Silver Medal)

Palmetto Moonshine – Apple Pie Moonshine (Bronze Medal), Blackberry Moonshine (Bronze Medal)

Pinckney Bend Distillery – American Gin (Bronze Medal)

Pittsburgh Distilling Company – Wigle Rye Whiskey (Silver Medal), Wigle's Organic Ginever (Silver Medal), Wigle's Organic Barrel-Rested Ginever (Bronze Medal), Wigle Organic Wheat Whiskey (Bronze Medal), Landlocked Oaked Rum (Bronze Medal)

Planck & Anchor Distillers – Rocheport White Rum (Silver Medal)

Prairie Wolf Spirits – DARK Natural Coffee Liqueur (Silver Medal), Prairie Wolf Vodka (Bronze Medal)

Rank Wildcat Spirits – Sweet Crude Rum (Silver Medal)

Ransom Spirits – Ransom Dry Gin (WASHINGTON CUP)

Rebecca Creek Distillery – Whiskey (Silver Medal), Enchanted Rock Vodka (Silver Medal)

Revolution Spirits – Austin Reserve Gin (Bronze Medal)

Roundhouse Spirits – Corretto Coffee Liqueur (Silver Medal)

San Luis Spirits – Dripping Springs Texas Orange Vodka (Bronze Medal)

S.D. Strong Distilling – Vodka (Silver Medal)

Spirits of St. Louis Distillery –Regatta Bay Gin (Silver Medal), Island Time Crystal Rum (Bronze Medal)

St. Julian – Grey Heron Vodka (Bronze Medal), A&G Brandy (Bronze Medal)

Stein Distillery – Blackberry Cordial (Silver Medal), Big Buck Blended Whiskey (Silver Medal), Seven Devils Aged Rum (Bronze Medal)

Trailhead Spirits – Great North Vodka (Bronze Medal), Healy's Gin (Bronze Medal), Healy's Reserve Gin (Bronze Medal)

Treaty Oak Distilling Co. – Starlite Vodka (Bronze Medal), Waterloo Gin (Bronze Medal)

Westland Distillery – American Single Malt Whiskey (Silver Medal)

White River Distillery – Friday Night Redeye (Bronze Medal)

Wiggly Bridge Distillery – White Whisky (Bronze Medal), Baby Bourbon Whisky (Bronze Medal)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Frost', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Frost MS, MW
Director, Washington Cup Competition

Questions concerning the Washington Cup may be addressed to Doug Frost at 816-916-1095 or go to www.washingtoncup.com or email us at washingtoncup@gmail.com.