

DOCTOR TIME:

RANSOM SPIRITS

Although it may not be the first superpower that comes to mind, we all yearn for the ability to turn back the hands of the clock occasionally. Mastering this vortex of time, Ransom Spirits takes the ultimate quantum leap and gifts the contemporary era with a taste of the past through their portfolio of both spirits and wine.

Old Tom Gin

When Ransom Spirits began working on saving Old Tom Gin from the abyss of lost spirits, no brown or barrel aged gins existed on the American market. Looking to revive this popular style of gin from the mid-1800s, the brand focused on a traditional recipe, comprising of a base wort of malted barley, added to an infusion of botanicals in high-proof corn spirits. Aged in French oak wine barrels and pot distilled in a Prulho alembic copper still, this spirit will undoubtedly rescue many a pre-Prohibition style cocktail!



GO-GO GADGET TASTING NOTES!



Alambic pot-distilled, 88-proof Old Tom was the result of a collaboration of efforts with cocktail historian David Wondrich. It is barrel-aged for six to eight months, and the oak gives it a hue the color of a new copper penny. The nose is winsome, with orange peel, new leather and dandelion. Unctuous and broad on the palate, singed orange peels bandy with spiced pears. A category stand-out. **96** —M. M.

The Emerald 1865 Straight American Whiskey

Trying to bring the past to life sometimes takes creative measures, such as using an old excise tax manual to recreate the Irish whiskey of the 19th century. Making small tweaks to the mash bill, the brand's interpretation of the 1865 spirit not only features usual suspects barley and rye, but also a historically accurate player: oats, a major ingredient for the Irish whiskeys of the time. Maturing in French and American oak for three years, one sip will transport you 150 years back in time—now that's powerful!



GO-GO GADGET TASTING NOTES!



This modern American interpretation of an Irish whiskey combines malted and unmalted barley, malted rye and rolled oats into a bright, sassy and mouth-filling spirit. The nose has a lilt of heather and oatmeal, while the tongue tingles with a hot flash of cinnamon, old book leather and a touch of rancio. 87.6 proof. **95** —M. M.

Ransom Sweet Vermouth

Turing its salvage efforts to the Belle Époque, Ransom Spirits spent five years perfecting their Sweet Vermouth—a bridge between the company's wine and spirits operations. The consistency of base wine of aromatic white varieties—Gewürztraminer, Muscat, Riesling and Pinot Gris—is maintained through the solera system; after distillation, the brandy ages in mixed French oak, before being infused with more than 20 botanicals, including wormwood, sarsaparilla, sassafras, wild cherry bark and coffee beans.



GO-GO GADGET TASTING NOTES!



With a list of 24 "home-grown" and imported botanicals on its label, the dream sequence of flavors skips across the tongue. Some stand-out notes include sarsaparilla, cinnamon bark, black mission figs and cacao nibs. You won't want to wake up. **92** —M. M.



THE TASTING PANEL

MARCH 2015 • \$6.95

Giovanni Bonmartini-Fini:

Champion of Italian Pinot Grigio

Giovanni Bonmartini-Fini, President of Barone Fini Wines, in the hills of Trentino-Alto Adige.



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