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"Citadelle gin, it's a delicious mystery"

Happy Hour: Citadelle Gin a mystery worth investigating

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Citadelle Gin is a riddle.

Made in Cognac, France and quadruple distilled, this spirit contains 19 botanicals that give it its signature floral flavor, in a recipe dating back to the late 1700s.

It's refined, it's fancy, it's deliciously refreshing in hot weather, yet it's incredibly affordable for what seems like a luxury spirit. On top of that, for a guy like me who only drinks English or Colorado-made gins, French-made Citadelle was a bit of a leap of faith.

But leap I would into a whole kid-sized pool of this stuff. I'd even slick down my kids' slip and slide with this stuff and not think twice. It's a flavorful, smooth and floral gin, with notes of pepper and a host of other spices like cinnamon, orange peel and anise subtly present in the finish. The light and fragrant aromas of fresh-cut flowers, pine and juniper are so inviting, I found myself sniffing my glass over and over like some kind of booze-crazy bloodhound.

Adding tonic and a squeeze of lime is advisable, making it a quaffable summer thirst quencher, as it takes the edge off some of the intense herbal flavors. Again, for the \$30 price range, this is an exceptionally complex and tasty gin.

The fact that it comes from Cognac is a bit of a curveball. But I say don't overthink Citadelle gin, it's a delicious mystery.

Mat Dinsmore is a managing partner and liquor buyer for Wilbur's Total Beverage.