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GIN Tasting

Jun 16, 2011 by [Mike Raven](#)
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Gin, with its history and properness, resides high in the ranks of regal cocktail creators. Gin is almost always laced with the king of botanicals, juniper, which gives it the piney forest scent it's famous for. Then other botanicals are added by the distiller to create the unique flavor desired; among them are roots, barks, seeds and pods, spices, flowers, berries, nuts, and vegetables. These additional botanicals are added during the distillation phase according to a strict recipe, to retain a consistent flavor, bottle after bottle. Please join me in evaluating and getting to know a few of the gins on today's market.

Gin: Tanqueray Editor's Choice

Supplier: Diageo

Origin: England

Notes: London Dry 94.6 proof

Charles Tanqueray was born on 27th March 1810. He rejected the expected career of 'clergyman' and instead set up the Vine Street Distillery in Bloomsbury, London in 1830, with the intention of creating the finest London Dry style gin. He experimented with many ingredients, testing the finest botanicals from around the world. After extensive trials, Charles discovered a wonderfully balanced recipe that combined a rich, full flavor and a bold, invigorating taste, and Tanqueray gin was born. Charles' complex combination of the finest botanicals and spices met with instant approval and success. The rest is history. Charles approached his work like an artist. He possessed a great passion for developing the finest spirit and was dedicated to researching and exploring the world of gin. Charles died in 1868 at the age of 58 years.

Color: Clear and bright, a little shiny.

Nose: Light and piney, forest-like.

Flavor: Soft entrance that gracefully fills your palate with a glowing rich flavor of its finely chosen botanicals. A classic London Dry. The finish dances on the tongue and leaves a lasting flavor awaiting the next tipple. Simply Outstanding!





Gin: Brooklyn Gin
Supplier: Brooklyn Distilling Co.
Origin: Brooklyn, NY
Notes: 80 proof. Only available in New York at this time. A craft gin with hand-cracked juniper berries. The bottle is half the show—heavy with a big medallion and heavy corked topper.

Color: Clear

Nose: Fresh pine forest, light and airy, pleasant.

Flavor: A smooth and slightly viscous entry. Not a big juniper flavor; more of a white pepper accent for me. The finish settles softly. Well-made. I would recommend trying it while in New York.

Gin: Citadelle
Supplier: W.J. Deutch & Sons
Origin: France
Notes: 88 proof. A centuries-old recipe that combines 19 botanicals. Triple-distilled in small copper pot stills from wheat harvested in France's Beauce region, famous for that exquisite crusty bread!

Color: Crystal clear

Nose: Complex. Pure. Not overweighed with juniper.

Flavor: Creamy juniper on the front, transcending into a beautiful rainbow of fine botanicals. Outstanding!

Gin: Citadelle Reserve
Supplier: W.J. Deutch & Sons
Origin: France
Notes: 88 proof with 19 spices in the blend. Small oak cask-refined at Chateau de Bonbonnet.

Color: Clear

Nose: Refined juniper and other botanicals blend for a soft and luxurious nose.

Flavor: Creamy and balanced blend of flavors that evokes

Gin: Damrak
Supplier: Lucas Bols
Origin: Amsterdam
Notes: 83.6 proof. Damrak uses 17 botanicals and is distilled 5 times. The recipe is one of the oldest gin recipes in the world.

Color: Clear

Nose: Fresh and clean with prevalent orange zest.

Flavor: Mellow mouth-feel (distilling 5 times will do that), along with the orange peel zest, juniper, and coriander. An extremely pleasant taste from the original recipe. Outstanding!



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