

Vodka

If it will ferment it can potentially become vodka—potato, rye, grains, beets. Vodka means ‘little water’ in Russian, and it’s argued by the Irish Times (August 6, 2005) that by being diminutive voda, its very name infers that Vodka is the refined version of water. The neutral, clear spirit is fresh like water and becomes even cleaner with repeated distillations—it is also said the more distillations, the less intense the hungover in the morning. No wonder multiple distillation trend is still continuing.

Its pure taste means it is the perfect base for many cocktails, it also means people revel in infusing Vodka with endless amounts of flavours—some genius, some strange. It was originally made for medical use, then it was elevated after Polish and Russian aristocrats were some of the first commercial distillers, Vodka’s history is embedded in the world’s history. From autocracy to communism.

Australia

666 <i>Coffee</i>	40%	\$9
Fire Drum	40%	\$10
Heavens Hell <i>Pomegranate</i>	40%	\$10

England

Chase <i>Potato</i>	40%	\$10
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Sweden

Absolut	40%	\$10
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Poland

Zubroqwka <i>Bison Grass</i>	40%	\$10
Belvedere <i>Unfiltered</i>	40%	\$11

Gin

Gin is essentially flavoured vodka—but never ever say that to someone who loves the stuff.

To produce gin, a neutral grain spirit is flavoured with a range of botanicals—today, we use pretty much anything but juniper berries must make an appearance.

The name London Dry today has little to do with London. Instead, it refers to a particular blend of flavours, juniper—of course—a noticeable citrus and spice element (anise, cardamom, coriander, nutmeg, angelica root).

We also associated it with tonic, but without Malaria, that would never would have happened. Essentially, it was discovered that quinine (found in the bark of the cinchona tree), could treat Malaria. What with the British Empire unfurling on the world in their colonial expansion, it was important to get people to actually take the stuff. The answer? Gin! A cheap spirit drunk by the lower classes. And thus, a drink we now associate with a civilised affair was born.

There are also many different styles of tonic, feel free to request your favourite.

Australia

Melbourne Gin Company	42%	\$9
Patient Wolf	41.5%	\$10
Four Pillars <i>Rare Dry</i>	41.8%	\$10
Adelaide Hills Distillery 78°	42%	\$10
West Winds <i>The Cutlass</i>	40%	\$10
Settlers <i>Rare Dry Sloe Gin</i>	43%	\$10
Four Pillars <i>Bartenders Series Spiced Negroni</i>	43.8%	\$12
Four Pillars <i>Barrel Aged</i>	43.8%	\$12
Four Pillars <i>Bloody Shiraz</i>	40%	\$13
Four Pillars <i>Christmas 2016</i>	43.5%	\$14
Four Pillars <i>Christmas 2017</i>	43.5%	\$14
Four Pillars <i>Navy Strength</i>	58.8%	\$14
West Winds <i>Broadside</i>	58%	\$17

England

Hayman's Old Tom	40%	\$10
Martin Miller's	40%	\$12
Fifty Pounds	43.5%	\$13
Jensen's <i>Bermondsey Dry</i>	43%	\$13
Dodd's	49.9%	\$13

Great Britain		
Tanqueray	40%	\$10
Tanqueray <i>No 10</i>	40%	\$13
Holland		
Bols Genever	42%	\$12
France		
Vedrenne <i>Le Gin One and Nine</i>	40%	\$10
Diplôme Dry	44%	\$10
United States of America		
Aviation	42%	\$10
Glorious	45%	\$12
Few <i>Standard Issue</i>	57%	\$13
New Zealand		
South Gin	42.2%	\$9
Lighthouse	42%	\$10
Reid & Reid <i>Native Gin</i>	42%	\$12

Mezcal & Tequila

We think of tequila as something to be shot in the middle of a wild night that will lead to the bad decisions and bad hangovers, but Tequila can be drunk and appreciated like Scotch or Cognac.

All tequila is mezcal, but not all mezcal is tequila. These tasty devils are all made from the indigenous agave plant. Technically, tequila can only be made from variety of this (the blue agave), and they have to be made in specific regions in Mexico (Jalisco, Guanajuato, Tamaulipas, Nayarit, and Michoacán).

Whereas Mezcal can be made in any place, from any type of Agave—and there's over 30.

There are five categories that both Tequila and Mezcal use; Blanco (white or pure), Joven (young), Reposado (aged under a year), Añejo (aged 1-3 years), Extra Añejo (more than 3 years).

Espolon Blanco	40%	\$10
Agavero <i>Liqueur</i>	32%	\$12
Arte NOM <i>Seleccion de 1580</i>	40%	\$14
Jose Cuervo <i>Reserva de la Familia</i> Extra Anejo	40%	\$25