The Wiseman Bourbon (USA; Stoll Group Kentucky Owl, Louisville, KY). A smooth ribbon of vanilla blended with smoked oak leads into a milk chocolate finish. This is a blend of bourbon aged between three and six years.

This sea-influenced Gin (USA; Fishers Island Distiller, New York). The first sips of this sea-influenced gin open with a hint of juniper and black pepper, with lightly bitter walnut skins and burnt orange peel. The distinctly nutty midpalate evolves into a long, juicy finish packed with clove and black pepper. This is a blend of bourbons aged between three and six years.

Cognac Park XD Limited Edition (Lunar New Year). This is a special cask-aged bourbon made with five grains, including local spelt, aged at least five years. The result is a citrusy, dry tasting. Think compound with no sugar or milk in sight, mixed with lightly bitter walnut skins and brown sugar. The long, complex finish blends dried cherry, tobacco, allspice and a hint of clove, layered with the earthy notes of black tea. Made in France. This cask-aged bourbon is aged for at least 10 years. The result is a citrusy, dry tasting. Think compound with no sugar or milk in sight, mixed with lightly bitter walnut skins and brown sugar. The long, complex finish blends dried cherry, tobacco, allspice and a hint of clove, layered with the earthy notes of black tea.

With a hint of juniper and black pepper, with lightly bitter walnut skins and burnt orange peel. The distinctly nutty midpalate evolves into a long, juicy finish packed with clove and black pepper. With a hint of juniper and black pepper, with lightly bitter walnut skins and burnt orange peel. The distinctly nutty midpalate evolves into a long, juicy finish packed with clove and black pepper.
92 Rivulet Artisan Pecan Liqueur (USA; C88 Holdings, Louisville, KY). Think pecan pie in a glass. This is a sticky-sweet little crowd-pleaser, with its amber hue, bold toasted pecan aroma and rich, full-bodied palate that mingles vanilla, caramel drizzle and nuts, leading into a lightly spiced finish. Sip with dessert or drop a little into whiskey as a sweetener.  
abv: 30%  
Price: $35

92 Villon (France; Sovereign Brands, New York, NY). VSOP Cognac and a French wheat spirit form the base of this liqueur. Distinctly sweet raisin, vanilla, and spiced orange aromas waft from the glass. The syrupy palate offers maple, candied orange peel and candied ginger, leading to a smooth vanilla finish accented with cinnamon and clove.  
abv: 40%  
Price: $45

91 Harpy Limoncello Liqueur (USA; Michigrain Distillery, Lansing, MI). Look for a pale yellow hue, with a touch of sediment visible (made with real lemons, this is normal, the producer says). The bold, bright lemon lollipop aroma leads to a tart, only slightly sweet palate with a bitter lemon pith hint. The finish is brisk, with hints of pine and bracing alcohol bite. Refreshing; serve chilled. Woman-owned brand, family recipe from Italy, no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives.  
abv: 32%  
Price: $37

91 Tia Maria Matcha Cream Liqueur (Italy; DiSa-ronno International, Somerset, NJ). Here’s one for fans of the Japanese green tea. Look for a pale olive-green hue and mild, earthy aroma. The creamy, silky palate has a faint but distinct matcha flavor, finishing slightly nutty, with a subtle cocoa powder exhale. Best Buy.  
abv: 17%  
Price: $25

96 Appleton Estate Black River Casks (Jamaica; Campari America, New York, NY). Look for a deep amber hue and bold, enticing caramel and coffee bean aromas, plus a hint of red fruit. The velvety palate echoes those notes, adding succulent toffee and hazelnut, leading to a long, complex finish accented by orange peel. Sip or mix this rum, aged 15 years minimum.  
abv: 43%  
Price: $65

95 Plantation Rum Under the Sea Panama 2008 (Panama; W.J. Deutsch & Sons, Stamford, CT). This burnished gold rum offers delicate grilled pineapple and violet aromas. The palate shows loads of fruit, pineapple but also grapefruit peel and a hint of coconut sweetness. Cayenne and cinnamon sizzle enlivens butterscotch richness on the finish.  
abv: 45.7%  
Price: $80

94 Kuleana Hawaiian Rum Agricole (USA; Kuleana Spirits, Kawaihae, HI). Made from the fresh-pressed juice of 40 sugarcane varieties grown on the producer’s farm in Kohala, Hawaii, this single estate white rum has an enticing grassy aroma and lively palate that bounces from hints of green banana and lemongrass to a lightly peppery, mentholated finish. Mix into all the mojitos.  
abv: 40%  
Price: $57

93 Copalí Cacao Rum (Belize; Copalí Spirits USA, Nashua, NH). This is a single-estate white rum infused with organic cacao nibs, and it’s lovely, more complex and clean than most flavored rum. Lychee and banana aromas lead into a concentrated, lightly sweet palate laced with vanilla sugar and cocoa powder, finishing long and slightly nutty, enlivened by a bit of white pepper tingle on the exit. Best Buy.  
abv: 40%  
Price: $31

92 Old Line Aged Caribbean Rum - Single Malt Cask-Finished (Dominican Republic; Old Line Spirits, Baltimore, MD). Distinct coconut aromas lead into a lively palate that tingles with ginger and black pepper heat. Coconut and browned butter lead into a taut finish laced with lemon and grapefruit peel. This is a blend of seven- to 11-year-old Dominican Republic rums finished for an additional year in casks that previously held Old Line’s American single malt whiskey.  
abv: 50%  
Price: $35

92 Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum (USA; Hard Truth Distilling, Nashville, IN). The producer says this rum is made with “toasted flaked coconut with cane sugar and natural sea salt.” Look for a bold, sweet coconut aroma and syrupy-thick palate loaded with vanilla, almond and toasted coconut. The salt adds a pleasing, addictive quality, like a tropical version of salted caramel. Best Buy.  
abv: 21%  
Price: $28
## RYE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Whiskey</th>
<th>Distillery</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Wild Turkey Rare Breed Barrel Proof Rye</td>
<td>(USA; Wild Turkey, Lawrenceville, KY)</td>
<td>Mild almond and cinnamon aromas lead into cocoa and caramel on the surprisingly luscious, lip-smacking palate. Adding water coaxes out mulling spices, orange flesh, and caraway. It’s a bit like a s’more made on slices of dark-toasted rye bread.</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Milam &amp; Greene Port Finished Rye</td>
<td>(USA; Milam &amp; Greene, Blanco, TX)</td>
<td>Complex and enticing, this rich take on rye has a notably deep, ruddy hue and toffee and red fruit aromas. The big, bold palate opens with dusty cocoa and mild cinnamon heat.</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Woodford Reserve Rye</td>
<td>(USA; Woodford Reserve Distillery, Versailles, KY)</td>
<td>A classic rye profile. The rich vanilla fragrance leads to a relatively lean flavor profile, showing espresso, charred oak, unsweetened chocolate and clove. The finish is satisfyingly long and drying.</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>$35</td>
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## SHOCHU

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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Origin</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>MUJEN Original</td>
<td>(Japan; Makukan Spirits, Los Angeles, CA)</td>
<td>This lively, bracing rice-based shochu offers a mild, citrusy aroma and clean, crisp palate that reflects a grapefruit peel zing. A fleeting saline hint creates a refreshing, mouthwatering finish.</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Ichiko Saiten Shochu</td>
<td>(Japan; Davos Brands, New York, NY)</td>
<td>Toasty, warm cocoa and roasted almond on nose and palate lead into a bracing finish. Lemon peel astragyn is framed by white pepper and ginger heat. 100% barley, including the koji.</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Mizu Shochu</td>
<td>(Japan; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Miami, FL)</td>
<td>Think spa water with a kick: bright, lively aromas suggest lychee and rosewater, plus a faint raspberry note. The palate opens dry and finishes long with a delicate cantaloupe hint accented by grains of paradise. Distilled from barley (67%) and black koji rice (33%).</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>$35</td>
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TEQUILA

97 Don Fulano Añejo (Mexico; E. & J. Gallo Winery, Modesto, CA). Aged in a mix of casks that previously held Burgundy, Bordeaux and Loire wines, this complex tequila is one to savor. Bell pepper and jalapeño aromas mingle with mild honey and cinnamon sweetness. The plush palate echoes that sweetness and spice, leading into a long finish tinged with cocoa and vanilla, plus a final zing of jalapeño heat.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $80

96 Partida Roble Fino Añejo (Mexico; Tequila Partida, Oakland, CA). This is an anejo tequila finished for five months in casks that previously held single malt whisky, and sherry before that. The end result is a golden hue and subtle agave and baking spice aromas. The mouthwatering palate shows broad strokes of vanilla, oak and roasted nuts. Faint smokiness wafts into the finish, transforming the citrusy exhale into burnt grapefruit peel.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $125

96 Casa Komos Añejo Cristalino (Mexico; MHW/ Casa Komos, Manhasset, NY). This tequila was aged in French oak white wine barrels, filtered for clarity, then aerated in clay amphorae. All this yields a liquid with a faint straw tinge and slightly floral aroma warmed with cooked agave. The silky palate is lightly sweet, with toasted coconut and almond leading into a gentle, mouthwatering finish accented with lemony acidity and pink peppercorn. The deep blue ceramic bottle makes it gift-worthy, too.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $120

95 Expresiones del Corazón George T. Stagg Añejo (Mexico; Sazerac, Frankfort, KY). This tequila was aged 22 months in barrels that previously held George T. Stagg bourbon, yielding a pale straw hue and light coconut and almond aromas. The flavors are lush but light, opened with brown sugar and cocoa powder and exiting with a grassy, herbaceous exhale and flurry of sweet spices: star anise, cardamom, cinnamon.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $80

94 Tequila Enemigo 00 Extra Añejo (Mexico; Trinity Wine & Spirits, New York, NY). This burnished gold tequila opens with allspice and cinnamon aromas. The silky palate reflects those spices, along with hints of dried cherry, cocoa powder and oak. The finish is long, lip-smacking and delicately spiced. Pair with dark chocolate.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $170

94 Seleccion Suprema de Herradura Extra Añejo (Mexico; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). Vanilla, almond and baking spice aromas entice. The silky palate opens with vegetal jalapeño and bell pepper, sliding into a long, honeyed finish sprinkled with fiery cayenne, cinnamon and clove. Aged 49 months.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $350

94 Bribon Añejo (Mexico; Palm Bay, Port Washington, NY). Light, fresh aromas suggest honeysuckle and a hint of pear. The palate echoes those notes, layering on toasted coconut and hints of fresh basil and thyme, landing gently with white pepper and a curl of lemon peel. Aged 18 months in ex-bourbon casks. Best Buy.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $30

94 Tepozán Añejo (Mexico; Tequila Tepozán, Sherman Oaks, CA). The bold aroma mixes jalapeño and agave nectar, plus a grassy hint. Honey and almond sweetness leads the palate, heading into a notably long, mouthwatering finish laced with vanilla, clove and white pepper. Overall, a lively mix of sweetness and spice. Aged 14 months in ex-bourbon barrels.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $65

94 El Tequileño Añejo Gran Reserva (Mexico; Southern Glazer, Miramar, FL). This tequila has a golden and bright appearance and buttery, toasty aromas. The palate opens lightly sweet, suggesting honey-roasted nuts and a gentle honeysuckle note into a brisk, drying finish laced with black pepper. Created in collaboration with winemaker Randy Ullom, this is a blend of a two-year old añejo and six-year-old extra añejo. Released January 2021.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $90

94 Teremana Añejo (Mexico; Siete Bucks Spirits, White Plains, NY). The newest expression from the brand backed by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson offers zesty jalapeño and vanilla aromas. Honey and butterscotch coat the palate, enlivened by bracing clove, cayenne and white pepper on the exit. The overall impression suggests a butter cookie rolled in spices. Best Buy.  
**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $37
93 Severo Anejo Cristalino (Mexico; Hotaling & Co., San Francisco, CA). Some cristalinos seem designed to strip out tequila character; this one honors its roots. The agave flavor strides forward from the first sip, flanked by mild brown sugar and honey tones. The light, drying finish shows coconut and jalapeno heat.

**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $80

92 PaQui Anejo (Mexico; PaQui Tequila, New York, NY). This is a bright, fresh tequila that successfully preserves the nuances of agave. Look for a burnished gold appearance and lively roasted bell pepper and agave aromas. The palate feels light, showing jalapeno and bell pepper, with just a hint of almond and toasted coconut midpalate. The herby exhale suggests fresh oregano and thyme, accented by white pepper tingle. Aged 12 months in used American oak.

**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $65

92 El Diamante Del Cielo Tequila Anejo (Mexico; R.S. Lipman, Nashville, TN). Aged for up to four years in small oak barrels, this tequila offers confectionary aromas and flavors. Look for a tawny hue and luscious brown sugar, vanilla and allspice, with hints of cookie dough and cocoa powder leading into a finish marked by a flurry of baking spice.

**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $60

90 Patron Sherry Cask Aged Anejo Tequila (Mexico; Bacardi, Coral Gables, FL). This is a limited-production tequila matured for more than two years in Oloroso sherry barrels. The end result is a deep honey hue and fruitcake-like aromas: think golden raisin, dried fig, and roasted nuts. The palate mingles dried cherry with cranberry tartness and lemon peel acidity, plus hints of brown sugar and molasses, with a drying, lemony-tart finish.

**abv:** 40%  
**Price:** $15

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### VERNOUTH

98 Mancino Sakura Vermouth (Italy; Fasel Shenton, Seattle, WA). This enticing, pale ballet-slipper pink vermouth offers delicate floral aromas of Kyoto cherry blossoms and Italian violets, along with a beautifully juicy, fruity palate—think white peach and lychee, with a curl of grapefruit peel on the exhale. A 2021 limited edition of 4,000 bottles, both Italy and Japan are part of the inspirational and literal mix. Sip or mix into blossom-garnished martinis.

**abv:** 18%  
**Price:** $45/500 ml

97 BCN MUT Negre Barrel Aged Dry Vermouth (Spain; De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC). What’s in the bottle: a vermouth made from old-vine Grenache grapes and aged several months in French oak. This mellow, barrel-aged vermouth has a deep espresso-brown hue and dried fig and date aromas. The flavor is nutty, fruity and rich, echoing dried fig alongside dried cherry, grapefruit peel astringency and walnut.

**abv:** 18%  
**Price:** $42

97 Cocchi di Torino Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Haus Alpenz, Edina, MN). Look for a pale straw hue and fresh green apple and white flower aromas. The palate is zippy and remarkably light, with mouthwatering lemon peel and the barest hints of fresh herbs and peppermint on the super-clean, brisk exhale. Martini-worthy.

**abv:** 17%  
**Price:** $23/500 ml

95 Oscar.697 Vermouth Bianco (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY). Ripe pear, savory dried herbs and a hint of almond richness create an enticing aroma. The palate opens distinctly honeyed and sweet, with grilled pineapple drying to a lightly bitter citrus peel finish. Delicious.

**abv:** 14.5%  
**Price:** $38

95 Bertola Vermouth Jerez (Spain; Grapes of Spain, Lorton, VA). The base is a blend of oloroso and Pedro Ximenez Sherries; look for a rich, spiced nose and palate enriched by dried fig, date and raisin, plus plenty of clover honey, vanilla and baked apple. The lightly bitter finish is enlivened by clove, cinnamon and orange peel. Sip or mix with whiskey or rum.

**abv:** 15%  
**Price:** $25

95 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Extra Dry (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). Faint whiffs of savory dried oregano and juicy pear lead into a bone-dry palate. Fresh-cut grass and an echo of pear lead into a drying, citrusy finish. Best Buy.

**abv:** 15.5%  
**Price:** $15

95 Tosti 1820 Riserva Taurinorum Vermouth di Torino (Italy; Tosti USA, Manhasset, NY). This honeyed vermouth opens with apricot, honey and almond on nose and palate, leading into a long, slightly sticky, nutty finish, with a faint white flower hint. Moscato is the base wine, with lots of orange in the botanicals.

**abv:** 17%  
**Price:** $28

94 Vermut Flores Rosé Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA). Look for a pretty blush hue and mild floral aroma with a fleeting berry hint. The palate echoes the juicy berry note, braced up with grapefruit pith bitterness and finishing with peach nectar and a mild floral exhale. Nice as a chilled aperitif. Best Buy.

**abv:** 16%  
**Price:** $17

94 Poli Gran Bassano Bianco Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a burnished gold hue and an aroma mixing dried herb and floral notes: lavender and elderflower are part of the mix. The palate opens lightly bitter, with grapefruit peel and coriander leading into mellow golden raisin brushed with honey. A mild dried herb note emerges on the finish.

**abv:** 18%  
**Price:** $27

93 Dos Déus Origins Red Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). Everything here is deep, dark and delicious, from the inky hue to the rich cocoa, blackberry and dried fig aromas. The smooth palate echoes those dark fruit flavors: more dried fig and date, leading to plum skin pucker and a mocha hint on the drying exhale. Maturation in sherry and Priorat barrels lends extra dried fruit richness. Mix into whiskey cocktails.

**abv:** 15%  
**Price:** $30

93 Mastrogiannis Sweet Vermouth (USA; Mastrogiannis Distillery, Lakewood, WA). Look for a rusty orange hue and allspice and baked apple aromas. The palate suggests mulled cider, with baking spice leading into dried fig and baked apple, leading into hints of dried cherry, waxy honey and cayenne heat on the finish. Sweetened with Washington wildflower honey.

**abv:** 21.6%  
**Price:** $25
93 D.o Ulrich Blanco di Torino (Italy; Soilair Selection, New York, NY). Overall, this golden vermouth is restrained and complex. Dried apple, dried herb and hay aromas lead into a lightly sweet palate. Ripe pear provides the core, surrounded by hints of green apple and lemon peel acidity, plus a gentle tarragon and coriander exhale.
abv: 16%  
Price: $24

93 Villa Massa Giardino Sweet Vermouth di Torino Tradizionale (Italy; Zamora, Dallas, TX). Look for a transparent plum hue and mild, savory aromas, including a faint mesquite smoke hint. The palate is rich but not heavy: bold red fruit—cherry, cranberry, raspberry jam—leads into a drying finish with an orange peel accent. Mix into Manhattans.
abv: 40%  
Price: $31

93 Naud Vodka (France; M.S. Walker, Norwood, MA). Distilled from French wheat, this vodka has a pristine profile that winds into mouthwatering salinity—like the barest sprinkle of sea salt with a subtle dose of almond sweetness. Vodka purists will want to enjoy on the rocks.
abv: 40%  
Price: $30

93 True Legacy Premium Vodka (USA; Spirits Lab Distilling, Newburgh, NY). For those who prefer as neutral a vodka as possible, here’s your bottle to pour or pair. Look for a light, clean palate, which hovers on the edge of savoriness but ultimately pulls back, and a warming finish.
abv: 40%  
Price: $27

93 Vintage Distilling Handcrafted Vodka (USA; Vintage Distilling, Los Angeles, CA). Complex and bracing, this vodka offers flickers of spearmint and lemon peel tang, leading into a faintly floral exhale accented by white pepper sparks. The overall effect is clean and appealing, though some might suggest it veers into gin-like territory.
abv: 40%  
Price: $27

92 Strait Up Killer Vodka (USA; James Bay Distillers, Everett, WA). Distilled from wheat and corn, this vodka has a neutral aroma and teasing savory hints that suggest cumin and coriander—but blink and it’s gone. The brisk finish is punctuated by black pepper heat. Mix into Bloody Marys.
abv: 40%  
Price: $22

92 Village Vodka (USA; Village Garage Distillery, Bennington, VT). Look for a slight citrus tinge in the aroma. The palate hints at vanilla and coconut, plus a charcoal tinge, landing softly with a white pepper accent. A head start for sweater-style drinks. Best Buy.
abv: 40%  
Price: $23

92 American Liquor Co. Vodka (USA; American Liquor Co., Temperance, MI). This exciting new “seed to swig” vodka was overseen by Minneapolis distiller Chris Montana. It starts with a quartet of Midwest ingredients: wheat, rye, potato and corn, blended into a singular distillate. Look for mild tropical fruit—faint but distinct hints of banana and coconut—on nose and palate. The assertive, drying finish is spiced with white pepper and ginger sparks. Best Buy.
abv: 40%  
Price: $22

96 Crown Royal 18 Extra Rare (Canada; Diageo, New York, NY). A new release for 2022, this blended Canadian whiskey has a tawny hue and rich vanilla and maple aromas. The complex, slightly candied palate suggests almond croissant, buttery brioche, banana bread and lots of nutmeg, cardamom and cinnamon, winding into a warming finish. It’s a whole delicious bakery in a glass.
abv: 40%  
Price: $140

95 George Dickel Bottled in Bond Tennessee Whiskey (USA; Cascade Hollow Distilling, Tullahoma, TN). This is Dickel’s second bottled-in-bond release, distilled in 2008 and released at 11 years old. Bottled at 100 proof, it’s a powerhouse of a whiskey, in terms of strength and flavor. Resounding caramel and toffee intertwine into a long, mouthwatering fade, accented with cinnamon sizzle and a hint of caramel apple. Mix into whiskey sours and other cocktails. Best Buy.
abv: 50%  
Price: $40

95 Journeyman Distillery Pit-Spitter Cherry Flavored Whiskey (USA; Journeyman Distillery, Three Oaks, MI). File under: not every whiskey needs to be serious. This flavored whiskey is just fun. It starts with its garnet hue and distinct dried cherry aroma. The palate is more puckery cranberry and lemon than cherry at first; adding water moves the dial to sweet-tart, suggesting fruit leather and dried cherry. It’s not overly sweet, and it’s easy to see enjoying this lengthened with ginger ale or fizzy water. As flavored whiskies go, this one is a success.
abv: 35%  
Price: $45

95 Downslope Single Malt Whiskey (USA; Colorado Craft Spirits, Centennial, CO). A distinctly smoky aroma emerges the moment this whiskey is poured. The palate shows baked apple and ripe pear, mingling with a smoky, saline flavor. Adding water pushes the smoke forward even further, now wafting over hints of salted caramel and vanilla wafer, finishing with ginger zing. Overall, complex and intriguing.
abv: 40%  
Price: $65

95 Jack Daniel’s Bonded Tennessee Whiskey (USA; Jack Daniel’s Distillery, Lynchburg, TN). Caramel and oak aromas lead the nose, plus a walloph of alcohol heat. The big, oaky palate echoes the caramel note, rounding into a long, warming finish with plenty of mouthwatering butterscotch, clove and peppery heat. Tasty, full-strength and clearly meant for mixing. One of two new permanent expressions added to the line-up in May 2022. Best Buy.
abv: 50%  
Price: $30

94 Rampur Asāva Indian Single Malt Whisky (India; 5G Worldwide, Edison, NJ). Matured in ex-bourbon barrels and finished in Indian Cabernet Sauvignon casks, this single malt offers a toasty hue and bold dried fruit flavors. Dried date, fig and gingerbread wind into a mocha midpalate and long finish laced with sandalwood, cardamom and allspice.
abv: 45%  
Price: $90

94 Cotswolds Sherry Cask Single Malt Whisky (England; Cotswolds Imports USA, Manhasset, NY). This English single malt is matured in casks seasoned with dry oloroso and sweet PX Sheries. The result is brown sugar and marzipan aromas. The palate only fleetingly echoes that sweetness, leading into sandalwood and cedar, finishing with piquant lemon and ginger and cayenne heat. Mix into Penicillins; you’ve got a head start here.
abv: 57.4%  
Price: $120

93 Archipelago Lava Rock Vodka (Philippines; HPS Epicurean, Ramona, CA). This vodka is filtered over lava rocks from the volcanoes of Taal and Mayon. The end result is lightly sweet, with mild hints of candied lemon and grapefruit peel astrigency, finishing with ginger sparks.
abv: 45%  
Price: $25

93 Cedar Ridge American Single Malt Whiskey The Quintessential Signature Blend (USA; Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, IA). Look for a light gold hue and bright, enticing pineapple, pear and vanilla aromas. The palate echoes those fruit tones, wrapped in a veil of peat smoke, finishing mouthwatering, lively and bright. This American single malt is finished in various sherry, brandy, rum and wine casks, “meticulously married and matured,” the producer says.
abv: 46%  
Price: $60

For more on the Top 100 Spirits, visit winemag.com/TopSpirits2022