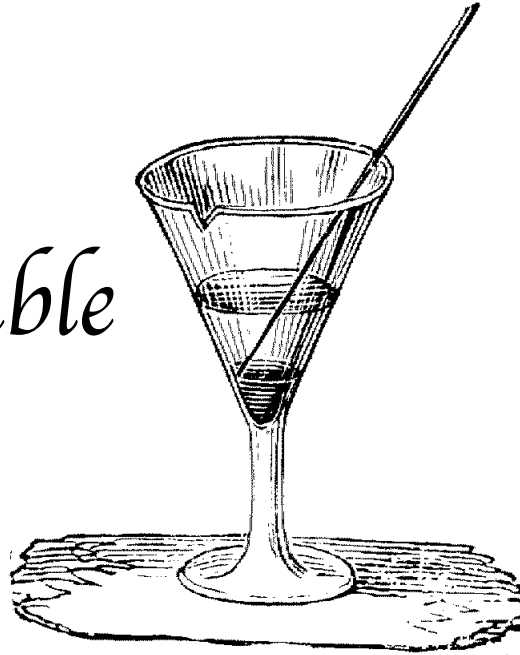


# Twelve Unforgettable Gins



The resurgent popularity of gin is surely a sign that we are evolving as a society. Legions of parched Americans, disenchanted with vodka's austerity and carnival-like parade of flavors, are finding sanctuary in gin's affordable elegance and unrivaled complexity. Crafted according to a secret blend of aromatics, every brand is endowed with an engaging personality as individually distinctive as DNA, which explains why no two premium gins taste the same.

The most telling distinction between brands is the irresistible nature of their bouquets. An exceptional gin makes its presence immediately known with an outpouring of fresh, celery-crisp aromas elicited from botanicals such as juniper berries, citrus peels, herbs, roots and spice. The

effect is mesmerizing and lingers on the mind like an unforgettable perfume.

The Chanel No. 5 of the category is **Plymouth English Gin**. Made for two centuries at *Black Friars Distillery*, the ultra-sophisticated spirit is distilled in a copper alembic still using pure grain spirits, soft Dartmoor water, and an infusion of seven, highly aromatic botanicals. A quick sniff explains Plymouth's enduring popularity. The gin has an exuberant citrus, spice, and juniper bouquet, and a light, seamlessly smooth body. Its vibrant, skillfully balanced palate fills the mouth with the flavors of strawberry, coriander, orange, and lemon zest, which gradually tapers into a graceful, distinguished finish.

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One of the pillars of the British Empire, **Beefeater London Dry Gin** is made in the same manner and according to the family-held recipe first devised in 1820. The renowned brand is exquisitely dry with a lavish floral, juniper, and spicy bouquet, and a layered, long-lasting palate of citrus, lavender, and pepper. Bottled at a lip tingling 94-proof, Beefeater and the Dry Martini have been an item since Prohibition.

Bestselling **Tanqueray Special Dry English Gin** is distilled in Finsbury, England, which at one time was world famous for its spa, and health-rejuvenating waters. The gin has a creamy, medium-weight body, and a captivating bouquet redolent with the piney aroma of juniper and delicate lemon and orange notes. Its palate is deeply saturated with tart, slightly bitter citrus flavors that have made Tanqueray the preferred choice to mix with the bittersweet flavor of quinine and lime.

The successful franchise now also includes **Tanqueray No. Ten**, an exceptionally fresh and unforgettable gin quite unlike any preceding it. Instead of relying on dried botanicals to derive its flavor, the spirit is distilled using tree-ripened grapefruits, oranges, and limes, ripe juniper berries from Tuscany, and herbs such as coriander and chamomile. Tanqueray No. Ten has an immense citrus and spice bouquet, and a broad array of succulent fruit flavors. A guaranteed crowd pleaser.

Self-described as the “world’s most peculiar gin,” **Hendrick’s** is imported from Scotland and crafted from a blend of small batch spirits produced in two types of stills, each of which produce distinctively different styles of spirits. Particularly unusual is the gin’s botanical mix that includes juniper, coriander, citrus, rose petals, and cucumber. Hendrick’s is refreshing and delightfully eccentric.

Few spirits have gone to greater lengths to achieve their world-class status than artisan **Martin Miller’s Reformed London Dry Gin**. Every drop of this small batch marvel is shipped 3000 miles from Langley, England to Iceland and the remote, glacier-fed Selyri Springs. Its pure, soft waters are used to lower Miller’s alcohol content, which for the classy and altogether breathtaking Westbourne Strength is 90.4 proof.

When it comes to making a good first impression, drop-dead gorgeous **Magellan London Dry Gin** wins hands down. The super-premium brand from France is triple-distilled in small batches employing eleven botanicals, including cloves and deep-blue Iris petals. Imbued with a lilting bouquet, shimmering light blue tint, and crisp, spicy palate, Magellan Gin is a feast for the senses.

## *Handcrafted Classics*

Scour the Earth if you must, you’ll find no other dry gin like **Cadenhead’s Old Raj**, or one as pricy. This extraordinary 110-proof spirit is alembic-distilled and has an exotic botanical blend that includes saffron, a rare and expensive spice. Saffron gives the gin an intriguing pale yellow tint and a sensational citrus and spice bouquet. Its palate is a collection of soft, dream-like flavors that slowly fade into a dry and luxurious finish.

Long famous as the brewer of Anchor Steam, this San Francisco powerhouse has turned its attention to handcrafting impeccable, small batch spirits such as **Junipero Gin**, a magnificently dry, assertive and aromatic spirit distilled with over a dozen botanicals. It is a crisp and eminently flavorful gin with a lightweight body, and spicy, juniper-laced bouquet. Although bottled at 98.6 proof, Junipero is too silky smooth to notice its elevated alcohol content.

Equally unforgettable is **G’Vine Gin**, a chic French import quadruple-distilled in copper alembic stills from Ugni Blanc grapes, nine botanicals, and fleur de vigue, the essential oils of the Ugni Blanc flower. This super-premium gin has a generous bouquet of lightly spiced, woody and floral aromas, and a voluptuous, medium-weight body. The palate features a semisweet set of spicy flavors with prominent notes of orange blossoms and lime zest. G’Vine is a sensuous experience from start to finish.

Full-bodied and precisely balanced, newcomer **Aviation Gin** makes an ideal entree to the category. No learning curve is required to thoroughly enjoy this decidedly spicy, herbal and tangy spirit. Made from 100% rye, the Oregon native was obviously devised with a chilled cocktail glass in mind.

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The final stop on the tour is **Whitley Neill London Dry Gin**, an adventurous spirit produced in England, yet inspired by the bold flavors of Africa. The award-winning small batch gin is made with an international cast of botanicals featuring wild gooseberries from the Cape, and the tart, acidic fruit of the Baobab tree, a taste

similar to oranges. The brand's citrusy bouquet, although unfamiliar and clearly not from around these parts, is luscious with flavors vibrant and delicious.

When it comes to enchanting the senses, gin is in a league of its own.

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