

F. PAUL PACULT'S

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Kentucky Bourbon Distillers

CRAFT DISTILLING IN NORTH AMERICA PART II

SCORES MORE CRAFT DISTILLATES REVIEWED AND RATED
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Also in this issue: NEW MAINSTREAM SPIRITS REVIEWS page 16

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 Of the 56 North American
 Craft Spirits reviewed by
 F. Paul Pacult only 1
 received Highest
 Recommendation
 & 5 Stars.
Okanagan Spirits
Poire William

ne... back
 seat; ... full-
 weighted, agreeably ... and acts as a
 showcase for the juniper/citrus/herbal
 mingling. Finishes elegantly, opu-
 lently, and on a juniper note that's just
 right. I'd term this a London Dry style
 done with North American flair and
 expressiveness. Nice job.

Spirit Journal March 2011:
 ★★★★★/Highly Recommended

Cold River
Blueberry Flavored Vodka
(USA; Maine Distilleries,
Freeport, ME)
40% abv, \$37.

Except for very minor sediment, a
 clean and bright silvery appearance.
 Expressive bouquet leaps from the
 glass, filling my office with fresh-
 picked blueberry fragrance in the
 opening round of sniffing; the blueber-
 ry essence remains a constant after six
 minutes of further air contact becom-
 ing more dried blueberry-like. Entry is
 fresh, fruity, pleasingly tart, and ripe;
 midpalate features authentic blueber-
 ry fruit flavor that reaches beyond the
 base spirit, providing a ripe, tart flavor
 profile that works well because of the
 high acidity that maintains the fruit's
 freshness. The people at Maine Distill-
 eries know how to get the most from
 their base materials better than most
 other small-scale distillers.

Spirit Journal March 2011:
 ★★★★★/Highly Recommended

• OKANAGAN SPIRITS,
 VERNON, BC, CANADA
 1-250-549-3120

Okanagan Poire Williams
Eau-de-Vie)
(Canada; Okanagan Spirits,
Vernon, BC)



40% abv, \$45/375 ml.

Crystalline clean and sediment-free.
 Initial inhalations encounter scents of
 beeswax/candle wax and ripe pear
 fruit in equal measure; further air con-
 tact releases deeper pear fragrance as
 well as a baking spice aspect (nutmeg)
 that rounds out the fruit in an elegant
 manner. Entry is focused on pear meat
 rather than juice and is more bitter-
 sweet than sweet and that's a huge
 plus in the scoring; midpalate features
 a medium-weighted texture that's
 silky and smooth yet substantial and
 highlights a keen acidity that keeps the
 peary taste profile fresh and authentic
 all through the aftertaste. Lovely,
 graceful, and world-class.

Spirit Journal March 2011:
 ★★★★★/Highest Recommendation

Okanagan Old Italian Prune
Eau-de-Vie
(Canada; Okanagan Spirits,
Vernon, BC)
40% abv, \$45/375 ml.

Gorgeous rusty/auburn appearance;
 flawless purity. Smells intensely pruny
 and raisiny in the first aromatic passes,
 even a little stemmy/musty around
 the edges; further aeration brings out a
 prune Danish quality that's engaging
 and candied but not overly sweet.
 Entry is long, dried fruit-like, and
 semisweet; midpalate is ripe, raisiny, a
 bit sap-like, and appealingly pruny.
 Aftertaste is medium-long and keenly
 ripe.

Spirit Journal March 2011:
 ★★★/Recommended

Okanagan Taboo
Absinthe-Genuine
(Canada; Okanagan Spirits,
Vernon, BC)
60% abv, \$35/375 ml.

Attractive pale aqua/Caribbean sea
 green/blue color; good clarity. Open-
 ing aromatics are elusive and sub-
 dued, offering only the slightest de-
 gree of botanicals, mostly anise; another
 seven minutes of aeration don't
 bring much more attributes to the
 table as the bouquet remains an under-
 the-radar object of mystery. Entry fla-
 vor is piquant/prickly, and at least ex-
 pressive and assertively herbal/bo-
 tanical, especially in the anise/licorice
 mode; midpalate continues the anise
 character perhaps to a fault as there
 really isn't much more taste available.
 Drinkable but a one-note song in a cat-
 egory in which crowds of notes are
 needed and expected.

Spirit Journal March 2011:
 ★★/Not Recommended

• OLD WORLD SPIRITS,
 BELMONT, CA
 1-650-622-9222

Blade Gin
(USA; Old World Spirits,
Belmont, CA)
47% abv, \$32.

Minuscule floating debris spotted
 under the lamp; oy. Upfront aromas
 after the pour include lemon peel,
 tobacco, coriander, celery seed, and
 cardamom more so than juniper/pine
 needle; the rootiness (orris, angelica)
 dominate the bouquet well into the
 secondary passes after additional aera-
 tion time and, to be blunt, I'm not cer-