

Press Release:

The Montana Distillery tested their Gin like the thousands of other Distilleries do around the world. First you try your recipe with your local customers and if you get a positive response then enter the spirit into a competition to see how it stacks up against others in the same category, locally, and against those made around the globe. Enter the 17th San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

- The SFWSC is considered to be the most influential and prestigious spirits competition in the world
- Medal winners represent some of the finest products from around the world
- The 2017 Competition was the biggest in its history, featuring more than 2,100 entries

And the results are in for The Montana Distillery's **FALLEN DOVE GIN**, which received some great news the other day. Their Gin was awarded the San Francisco World Spirits Competitions' highest accolades with a **DOUBLE GOLD** medal. **The Double Gold designation is awarded to the very few entries that receive Gold medal ratings by all members of their diverse expert judging panel. They consider this award to represent the finest products in the world.**

.....Spirits educator and consultant **Stephen Beal**, who has served as a judge since the competition's inception, comments "The best palates in the world come to this competition, and the biggest personalities in the spirits business come here as well. We have a mixture of technical experts, historians, bartenders, and industry professionals.

Every panel is very interesting and every product gets its own special look from several perspectives. This is why if you win a Double Gold or Best in Class award here, you can become an internationally acclaimed brand."

When asked about the results, Mark Hlebichuk (lee bi chuck) and his Wife and Partner in the business Sharie McDonald said "We work very hard to make high quality and creative products that push the boundaries of 'the norm' or the way it has been done. Sometimes the old ways are the best, other times we have to think outside the box and try to throw a creative twist into the mix. This Gin project took over 2 years to happen, and many hours of testing prospective recipe combinations. We used an eye-dropper and many shot glasses to test flavor combinations and it wasn't so long before we realized the 10's of thousands of combinations that were possible. Plus I think Sharie was getting tired of having to drive me home from work after "testing" all of the time. Gin is quite a proprietary thing in the Distillers world. All you really get is that an American gin must be juniper for-

ward. After that how the gin is formulated, and the combinations of botanicals used is on you. We are elated that our efforts to make this a great product for our customers has been recognized by such a prestigious event as the San Fransisco World Spirits Competition; and that they measured us so highly. We are grateful and thankful for the Double Gold Award. This is really Awesome! For us, our Patrons and for the State of Montana.”