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Media Contact:  
Kyle VanStrien, Owner  
kyle@longroaddistillers.com  
269.377.5489



## **Grand Rapids Distillery Awarded Top Honors at American Distilling Institute Awards**

*Long Road Distillers Awarded Numerous Honors at 12th Annual Judging of Craft Spirits in Portland, OR.*

**Portland, OR** – Grand Rapids-based Long Road Distillers was awarded several new honors at the 12th Annual Judging of Craft Spirits, presented by the American Distilling Institute, in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday evening. The distillery was awarded Best of Class Specialty Spirit, Best of Category and a Gold Medal for Long Road Old Aquavit. They also won Best of Category and a Silver Medal for Long Road Gin; Silver Medals for Long Road Aquavit and Nocino, and a Bronze Medal for Long Road MICHIGIN. The awards were presented at the American Distilling Institute's Annual Gala which was held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR on Tuesday evening.

Over 800 spirits from around the world were entered into the ADI Judging, all from independently owned distilleries. The double blind competition is based on a 100 point scale and spirits are judged within price categories. Judges cast their votes for the best spirit entries and award medals for first (Gold), second (Silver), and third (Bronze) place for each qualifying category.

At last year's event, Long Road Aquavit took home Best of Class and Best of Category awards, with similar honors coming from International competitions in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Berlin, and San Diego.

Aquavit is a traditional Scandinavian spirit flavored with a variety of botanicals, similar to gin. However, rather than juniper being the predominant flavor, Aquavit requires that caraway or dill are the predominant flavors. Long Road Aquavit incorporates caraway, fresh dill, dill seed, cumin, star anise, and a handful of other botanicals to offer a unique twist on the traditional favorite. This year's big winner, Long Road Old Aquavit, is the distillery's classic Aquavit recipe, barrel-aged for over 12 months in used whisky barrels.

"We're incredibly proud of our team for the continued success of our spirits," said Kyle VanStrien, Co-owner of Long Road Distillers. "To be recognized at the ADI Judging by our peers and industry professionals is a big deal, and it really reinforces our commitment to innovating with locally sourced ingredients and to taking the long road in all that we do!"

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### **About Long Road Distillers:**

Long Road Distillers was born from the belief that making world-class spirits means never taking shortcuts along the way. After becoming the first craft distillery in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Long Road Distillers formed relationships with local farmers to bring that mission to Grand Rapids' West Side neighborhood. Each spirit produced at Long Road Distillers is milled from locally sourced ingredients, fermented, and distilled on-site. The result is an uncompromised lineup of spirits including Vodka, Gin, Whisky and more. Their spirits, along with a handcrafted collection of cocktails and a wide variety of food can be enjoyed at their tasting room on Leonard Street. [www.LongRoadDistillers.com](http://www.LongRoadDistillers.com)

**About the American Distilling Institute:**

The American Distilling Institute (ADI) is the oldest and largest organization of small-batch, independently-owned distillers in the United States. Founded in 2003 by Bill Owens, the organization has grown from a few dozen distillers to more than 1,000 paid members. ADI's mission is to promote and defend the art and enterprise of craft distilling. ADI's Annual Judging of Craft Spirits is the largest judging devoted strictly to craft spirits. Each year, both US and International entries are tasted blind and evaluated by an expert panel of judges made up of distillers, journalists, bar owners, bartenders, retailers, wholesalers, and distributors.