



The Chicago Independent Spirits Expo Returns for a 8th year on Tuesday, October 9th, 2018 at the Chicago Hilton Hotel

For the 8th year, the world largest gathering of small, independent & artisanal brands will converge on Chicago, much to the delight of spirits enthusiasts everywhere. What started out as just three small brands conducting a tasting in a bar in New York City over 10 years ago has now grown to become one of the most anticipated underground spirit tastings on the planet. The brainchild of Dave Schmier, founder of Redemption Rye & Temptation Bourbon, and owner of Deadwood Bourbon & Rye whiskey and The Funk Rum brands, and Martin C. Duffy, U.S. Brand Representative for Glencairn Crystal and former Sr. Masters of Whisky for Diageo, the Indie Spirit Expo has taken place across the country in such cities as San Francisco, New York City, Las Vegas and New Orleans (during the fabled Tales of the Cocktail week). However, the Windy City hosts the grandest one of them all!

The CISE provides members of the service industry as well as consumers an opportunity to meet the new wave of creative & innovated distillers, indie bottlers, importers and distributors as they sample & speak about their spirits. Attendees will be able to choose from over 600 spirits within the major liquor categories of vodka, gin/genever, rum/cachaca/clairin, tequila/mescal, whisk(e)y, liqueurs and even unique drink mixers from around the world.

According to Mr. Schmier, "The Chicago Indie Spirits Expo is a direct response to both the growing interest in craft spirits among consumers and the growth of craft distillers and other spirits entrepreneurs." Co-producer Martin Duffy, after experiencing Schmier's New York event in 2011, convinced his friend to bring his Indie Spirits Expo to the City of Big Shoulders. "Chicago has always been a progressive drinking town, so it only seemed logical to bring this event here and make it the biggest and best event of its kind", said Duffy. "Plus, it is a great chance to highlight the best of the Midwest's own burgeoning distilling community."

The 2017 Chicago Independent Spirits Expo featured over 130 exhibitors sampling over 600 different artisanal and independent spirits from all over the world (The USA, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) to over 1200 key bartenders, F&B managers, bar owners, distributors, importers, retailers and spirit aficionados coming from all over the North, Central & South America as well as Europe & Asia.

Just some of the brands that will be showcased this year ~

A.D. Laws Straight Four Grain Bourbon, Secale Straight Rye Whiskey	NOM 1549 BlancoArte NOM 1414 ReposadoArte NOM 1146 Anejo	Juniperus Gin American Whiskey Bourbon Spring, Laughton Bros., N.A. Steamship Rye, Water Tower on Fire, Old No. 176, Groninger Hoek, Prairie Sunshine
Amaro Cinpatrazzo	Fuenteseca Cosecha Blanco	Brenne French Single Malt whisky Brumby Cowboy Butterscotch & Cream Liqueur
American Craft Brandy Immature Brandy	Don Amado Rustico	Cardinal Spirits Cedar Ridge Iowa Whiskey
Floodwall Apple Blue Chair Bay Rum	Don Amado Reposado	CH Distillery Chase Vodka
Brandy	Don Amado Pechuga	Claddagh Irish Whiskey Cleveland Whiskey
Unaged Apple Brandy Butchertown Reserve Cask Brandy	Aviation American Gin	Clyde Mays Alabama Whiskey
Absinthe Blance	Sombra Mezcal	Cody Road Bourbon, Rye, River Pilot Vodka, River Rose Gin, Iowish Cream Liqueur
Amrut, Stalk & Barrel	Astral Tequila	Copper Fiddle Distillery
Blackadder	Balcones '1' Texas Single Malt	Copper Fox Rye Whiskey
Five Lions	Brimstone	De Borgen New Style Genever
Lady of The Glen	Barr Hill by Caledonia Spirits	Edgewater Candles
Mahon	Barrow's Intense Ginger Liqueur	Edinburgh Gin
Armorik	Belle Meade Bourbon	Pig's Nose Scotch
Jean Fillioux	Bitter Ex Bitters	Sheep Dip Blended Malt
Du Peyrat	Bittercube	The Feathery Blended Malt
Normandin	Bullseye Bourbon	Chartreuse Green & Yellow
Delord	Sfumato	El Buho Mezcal
Duffau	OOLA Gin	FEW Spirits
Dartigalongue	Black Bull, Big Smoke	Giffard Liqueurs & Mezcals
Artez	Tequila Villa Lobos	Vermouth Routin
Roger Groult	Scottish Glory Scotch Whisky	
Claque Pepin	Indian Summer Gin	
Diplôme	Black Dog Vodka	
La Muse Verte	Black Dog Lavender Vodka	
Jules Theuriet	Black Dog Vanilla Vodka	
Jahiot	Black Dog 100 Rum	
Aroma Academy	Bluebird Distilling	
Arte	Four Grain Bourbon	
NOM 1579 BlancoArte	Rye Whiskey	
	Wheat Whiskey	

Glacier Cocktail Ice
 Glendalough Irish Distillery
 Glengoyne Single Malt Scotch
 Grander 8 & 12 Year Old Rum
 Greenhouse Artisan Gin
 Japanese whiskies - Iwai tradition,
 Akashi, Akashi single malt, Ichiro malts
 J Henry & Sons WI Straight Bourbon
 John Drew Rye
 Brixton Mash Destroyer
 Dove Tale Rum
 Journeyman Distillery
 Kalak Single Malt Vodka
 Hyde Irish Whiskey
 Blaum Bros. Distillery
 Koskenkorva Vodka
 Kerrgold Irish Cream Liquor
 Templeton Rye
 Santo Mezquila
 KOVAL
 Kyoto Gin Kinobi
 Vanagandr Spanish Gin
 Ichiro's Malt & Akashi Japanese Malts
 Sherries: Manzanilla Papirusa, Puerto
 Fino, Fino Jarana, Los Arcos
 Amontillado, Escudilla Rare
 Amontillado, Peninsula Palo Cortado,
 Don Nuno Oloroso, Eperatriz Eugenia
 Very Rare Oloroso, San Emilio Pedro
 Ximenez, Moscatel Emilin, East India
 Solera, Rojo Vermut, Solera Gran
 Reserva Brandy de Jerez
 Maplewood Brewery & Distillery-
 Various whiskies and beers
 Mezcal Noble Coyote
 MILLA & MAROLO Grappa
 North Shore Vodka, Gins, Bourbon &
 Rum
 Old Grove Gin
 Three Sheets Rum
 Opa! Canned Cocktails- Gin & Tonic-
 Rum & Ginger- Rum & Cola- Bloody
 Mary

Old Monroe Bourbon & Wheat Whiskey
 Unbroken Vodka
 Pecan Pie Flavored Whiskey
 Lemon Drop Flavored Whiskey
 Oma's Cherry Infused Vodka
 Palm Bay Imports
 Parce Rum
 Park Cognac - Park
 Pineau des Charentes
 Peychauds Aperitivo
 Glenfarclas
 Dimmi
 Bittermens
 Philadelphia Distilling
 Pickett's Ginger Beer
 Belgin Gin
 Bravewood whisky
 Beliq Liqueurs
 Rabbit Hole Kentucky Straight Bourbon
 Whiskey
 Rabbit Hole Kentucky Straight Rye
 Whiskey
 Rabbit Hole Straight Bourbon Finished
 in PX Sherry Casks
 Rabbit Hole London Dry Gin Finished
 in Rye Barrels
 RAFT Essentials Syrups
 RAFT Botanical Syrups
 The Bitter Housewife Bitters
 Redemption Whiskies
 Rendle's Original Gin
 Rhum Clement Rhum
 Rider Vodka
 Long Shot White Whiskey,
 Reserve Bourbon
 Reunion Rye,
 Barrel Strength Reunion Rye
 Ron Cartavio Rum
 Demetrio Premium Tequila, Antagonic
 Gin, Ron Duran Rum
 Santiago Queirolo Pisco
 Intipalka Pisco
 Rough Rider Double Cask Bourbon

Rough Rider Three Barrel Rye
 Rough Rider Big Stick
 Rough Rider Happy Warrior
 Pine Barrens Single Malt
 Pine Barrens Gin
 Sagamore Rye 83 proof
 Sagamore Cask Strength
 Sagamore Double Oak*
 Sagamore Moscatel Finish
 Scorpion Mezcal
 ESCORPION Mezcals, Sierra Norte
 Mexican Whiskies
 Smokehead, Spey
 Six Isles
 Macleod Range single malt Scotch
 Soap Distillery
 Sonoma County Distillery whiskies
 SoulBoxer Bourbon Old Fashioned
 SoulBoxer Brandy Old Fashioned
 Spice Note Infused Tequilas
 Tahoe Blue Vodka
 Tailwinds and Taildragger
 Tanduy Asian Rum
 The Real McCoy Rum - 3 Year Aged
 White
 The Real McCoy Rum - 5 Year Aged
 The Real McCoy Rum - 12 Year Aged
 Tiburon Rum
 Top Note Tonics
 Traverse City Whiskey Co.
 Tru Organic Vodka
 Six Organic Tequilas
 Crusoe Organic Rums
 Fruitlab Organic Liqueurs
 Grand Poppy Organic Amaro
 City Organic Gins
 Bar Keep Organic Bitters
 Virginia Highland Malt Whisky
 Whiskey Acres Bourbon, Rye, Vodka &
 Artisan Series
 Widow Jane Distillery
 and much, much more to come!

THE INDUSTRY ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ~

A feature unique to the Chicago Indie Spirits Expo each year is The industry roundtable Discussions. Held the afternoon of the Expo in The Buckingham Room of the Chicago Hilton Hotel & Tower, the industry round table discussion (12 noon to 2pm) is a select panel of spirit professionals from various levels of the spirits industry who discuss the current trends, topics, opportunities and challenges that face small spirits brands in the current market place. These round table discussions are open only to VIP ticket holders, exhibitors and media.

This year's guest moderator is the highly respected drinks journalist & author, Mr. Lew Bryson, former managing editor of Whisky Advocate Magazine.

Joining Lew will be an elite panel of drink professionals from every level of the drink world - distributors, retailers, distillers, importers, etc.. Get their take on the hot button topics facing those involved with making, selling and drinking adult beverages of every kind.

Panelists will include such libation luminaries as:

- Brett Pontoni, Retail Spirits Buyer for Binny's Beverage Depot
- Guy Rehorst, owner of Great Lakes Distillery. Board Member of the Wisconsin Distillers Guild and of The Wisconsin Craft Beverage Coalition
- Mark Shilling, out-going President for American Craft Spirits Association
- Monique Huston, National Spirits Director for Winebow Group
- Andrew Faulkner, VP of Operations for American Distilling Institute
- Jason Griffin, Director of Brand Development at Thoroughbred Spirits Group
- Victoria Rizzotte, Director of Operations at American Spirits Exchange

The IRTD kicks off the day promptly at 12noon. Admittance is limited to exhibitors, media and VIP Ticket Holders.

Note: The panel discussion will be followed immediately by 2 seminars - TBD

FOR TICKETS ~

Tickets for the Chicago Independent Spirits Expo include two options:

VIP ticket ~ \$85.00 ~ allows access to the round table discussions, seminars plus early admission to the tasting session at 4:30pm.

General Admission ticket ~\$65.00 ~ grants you entry to the tasting session from 6:30pm to close at 9:00pm.

A portion of all ticket sales will go to our charitable partner.

Purchase Tickets here ~ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-chicago-indie-spirits-expo-tickets-tickets-44835969592?aff=erelexpmilt>

Independently owned spirits brands can register for a booth here (Must be registered within the State of Illinois) ~

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-chicago-indie-spirits-expo-supplier-registration-tickets-42468713064?aff=erelexpmilt>

For press & media passes, please contact the organizers at indiepspirit@gmail.com.

Please visit our Facebook event page for updated brand listings, satellite events and to contact the organizers ~

https://www.facebook.com/events/716263231897897/?ref=br_rs

This is a 21 & over event. Proper state or federal photo I.D. is required. With great spirits comes great responsibility, so always drink responsibly!

Cheers,

Martin C. Duffy

Co-Producer

The 2018 Chicago Independent Spirits Expo

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