



As Seen On
NewYork.TimeOut.com
October 14, 2010



Ultimate Cocktails, Spirits and Wine Blast

Taste the world's best booze, all in one place.

By Chris Schonberger



Anyone can sip a Speyside single-malt and wax poetic about peat. But for credible booze criticism, look to the Ultimate Beverage Challenge. Earlier this year, spirits guru F. Paul Pacult and a squad of pro palates put more than 1,000 spirits and wines through their paces to establish a definitive compendium of the world's finest tipples. Now you can get a taste of the top scorers—more than 250 liquors and 75 types of vino, to be exact—at the **Ultimate Cocktails, Spirits and Wine Blast** (*Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway between 44th and 45th Sts; ultimate-beverage.com; Fri 15 6:30–10pm, VIP 5–10pm; \$90, VIP \$110; enter the code “TONY1015” for 50% off tickets*). In addition to snagging rare sips like a Mount Gay Rum 1703 Cask Selection, try 60-plus cocktails—including Negronis and whiskey sours—made by a crack bartending team featuring local stars Jim Meehan (PDT) and Ryan McGrale (Flatiron Lounge). Plus, don't miss book signings with scribes such as Pacult and David Wondrich (*Imbibe!*), as well as guided tasting seminars on topics like “The Spirits and Wines of China.” Drink well, and let the adjectives flow freely; these quaffs are well worth breaking out the thesaurus for.

Online at: <http://newyork.timeout.com/eat-drink/bars/333839/ultimate-cocktails-spirits-and-wine-blast>