

ULTIMATE BEVERAGE CHALLENGE



CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY 2018 WINNERS



2018 ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE

weeks to determine which of the entries are benchmarks. Through multiple-panel tasting procedures, the spirits deemed as 'finalists' are decided upon and then they go through one more round of judging to choose the highest scoring spirit. The USC judging process is admittedly complex. But, when you are charged with selecting the handful of the finest spirits currently in the world, why should the road to ultimate excellence be simple? Unlike every other spirits competition operating in 2018, USC Chairman's Trophy winners have to earn their way to that lofty position.



"In the end, to be bestowed the USC Chairman's Trophy each outstanding spirit must be seamlessly integrated at every qualitative level of alcohol, base material, acidity, pH, and, when necessary, wood impact. This is why we attract the world's most respected authorities. It requires the best people utilizing the fairest, most innovative methodology to arrive at the best conclusions."

This year's star-studded roster of judges included **Dale DeGroff, Jacques Bezuidenhout, Tad Carducci, Charlotte Voisey, Jillian Vose, Meaghan Dorman, Justin Lavenue, Tyler Hudgens, Joaquin Simo, Tim Cooper, Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan, Eric Alperin, Leo DeGroff, Sean Kenyon, Brian Bevilacqua, Berit Jane Soli-Holt, Dave Roochvarg, Dave Bletsch, Don Lee, Troy Clarke** and **Anthony Mendez**.

The **USC Chairman's Trophy and Finalist** awards identify the best spirits in the world by category, coming from this year 52 nations. **USC Tried & True Awards** recognize consistent quality while the **USC Great Value** citations point out spirits with extraordinary price/value ratios. At USC, every entry receives the most thorough and even-handed professional analysis possible. It's just how Ultimate Beverage Challenge does things. No shortcuts. Just honest, impartial judging.

Since 2010, **Ultimate Spirits Challenge's CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY** has become the most coveted award of excellence in distilled spirits history. But, what attributes, what virtues constitute a great whiskey, brandy, vodka, gin, tequila, liqueur, baijiu, rum, shochu or mezcal? Moreover, how are they arrived at?

Judging Chairman and Founder of Ultimate Spirits Challenge (USC) F. Paul Pacult explains, saying, "Each March, we convene the foremost group of spirits experts comprised of authors, journalists, consultants, and bartenders to carefully evaluate the entries covering all categories of distilled spirits. In order to identify the 'best of the best' in every spirits category, it is necessary for this formidable team of international authorities to follow USC's strict and uncompromising methodology.

"Held at the custom-designed Ultimate Beverage Challenge Evaluation Center in Hawthorne, NY, the judging panels take

AMARO

Meletti

APERITIF

Lillet Rose

BAIJIU

Jian Nan Chun

BRANDY

American:

Argonaut The Claim
California Brandy

Armagnac:

Delord l'Authentique Bas
Armagnac

Cognac:

Jean Fillieux XO Grande
Champagne

European Brandy:

Lucien Bernard XO 2017
Release

Grappa:

Bocchino Cantina Privata
Moscato Sauternes Cask
Finish

Pisco:

Caravedo Puro Torontel

GIN

London Dry:

Whitley Neill Handcrafted

World Gin:

Plymouth

LIQUEUR

Five Farms Irish Cream
Liqueur

MEZCAL

Del Maguey Single
Village Wild Jabali

RUM

Flavored Rum:

Plantation Pineapple
Stiggins' Fancy

Rum:

Diplomatico Distillery
Collection Barbet Still

SHOCHU

Ichiko Reserve Zenwa
2018 Edition

TEQUILA

Blanco:

Lunazul

Reposado:

Siete Leguas

Añejo:

Revolucion

Extra Añejo:

Partida Elegante

WHISKY-CANADA

Crown Royal XR Blended

WHISKY-INDIA

Paul John EDITED Single Malt

WHISKEY- IRELAND

Blended:

Jameson 18 Years Old

Single Pot Still:

Redbreast Lustau Edition

Single Malt:

West Cork Distillers
Glengarriff Series Peat
Charred Cask

WHISKY-JAPAN

Kamiki Maltage
Blended Malt

WHISKY- SCOTLAND

Blended:

Johnnie Walker Blue Label

Blended Malt:

Naked Grouse

Single Malt - Highland:

Glenmorangie Lasanta 12
Years Old

Single Malt - Islands:

Highland Park Viking Pride
18 Years Old

Single Malt - Islay:

Lagavulin 8 Years Old

Single Malt - Speyside:

The Glenrothes 25 Years Old

WHISKEY-USA

Straight Bourbon:

Remus Repeal Reserve

Rye:

Rough Rider Bull Moose
Three Barrel

Single Malt:

Westland Sherry Wood

WHISKY- WORLD

Virginia Distillery Co.Port Cask
Finished Virginia-Highland

WHISKEY- FLAVORED

William Wolf Frisky

VERMOUTH

Cinzano Bianco

VODKA

Flavored:

Dixie Black Pepper

Unflavored:

Belvedere Lake Bartezek
Single Estate Rye



ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE...NO SHORTCUTS. JUST HONEST, IMPARTIAL JUDGING.

For a complete list of 2018 results, go to ultimate-beverage.com/usc2017results
For Ultimate Spirits Challenge cocktail recommendations go to ultimate-beverage.com/2017cocktails