

ULTIMATE BEVERAGE CHALLENGE



ULTIMATE SPIRITS CHALLENGE 2019

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 these attributes 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 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 2019, 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 DeGross, Jacques Bezuidenhout, Tad Carducci, Charlotte Voisey, Jillian Vose, Meaghan Dorman, Justin Lavenue, Tyler Hudgens, Joaquin Simo, Tim Cooper, Clay Risen, Aisha Sharpe, Leo DeGross, 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 this year from 46 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 Spirits Challenge does things. No shortcuts. Just honest, impartial judging.



CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY 2019 WINNERS

AMARO

Lucano Anniversario

APERITIF

Select Aperitivo

BAIJIU

TTL Yushan Chiew XO
Kaoliang

BRANDY

American:
Argonaut Fat Thumb

Armagnac:
Marie Duffau Hors d'Age
Bas Armagnac

Calvados:
Christian Drouin
Pays d'Age 1999

Cognac:
Courvoisier Initiale Extra

European Brandy:
Asbach 15 Years Old

Pisco:
Demonio de los Andes
Acholado

GIN

American:
Junipero

London Dry:
Fords

Matured:

Tommyrotter Cask Strength
Bourbon-Barrel

Navy Strength:

Scapegrace Gold

World:

Citadelle

LIQUEUR

Berry/Fruit:
Merlet Soeurs Cerises

Citrus/Triple Sec:
Grand Marnier
Cuvée Louis Alexandre

Cream/Dairy:
Carolans Salted Caramel
Irish Cream

Herbal/Mint/Spice/Botanical:
Becherovka

MEZCAL

Real Minero Barril

RUM

Aged:
Appleton Estate
21 Years Old

Dark/Gold:
Banks 7 Golden Age

White Rum:
Banks 5 Island

SHOCHU

iichiko Reserve Zenwa
2019 Edition

TEQUILA, 100% AGAVE

Blanco: Cabeza

Reposado: Partida

Añejo: Azunia

Extra Añejo: El Tesoro

VODKA

Flavored:
Van Gogh Double Espresso

Unflavored:
Boyd & Blair Potato

WHISKY – CANADA

Crown Royal XR

WHISKY – IRELAND

Blended:
Jameson Bow Street
Cask Strength 18 Years Old
Batch 1

Single Pot Still:
Red Spot

Single Malt:
Knappogue Castle
14 Years Old

WHISKY – JAPAN

Kamiki Intense Wood

WHISKY – SCOTLAND

Blended:
Buchanan's Special Reserve
18 Years Old

Single Malt-Highland:
Glenglassaugh
30 Years Old

Single Malt-Island:
Highland Park Viking Pride
18 Years Old

Single Malt-Islay:
Bowmore 25 Years Old

Single Malt-Speyside:
BenRiach Authenticus
30 Years Old

WHISKEY – USA

American/Other:
Stolen 11 Years Old

Bourbon:
George T Stag

Rye:
Peerless 3-Year-Old

Single Malt:
Peat Week 5th Annual

Tennessee:
Uncle Nearest 1820
Nearest Green Single Barrel
Edition US-1

WHISKY – WORLD

Kavalan Solist ex-Bourbon
Single Cask Strength



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

For a complete list of 2019 results, go to ultimate-beverage.com/usc2019results
For USC Cocktail Commendations go to ultimate-beverage.com/usc2019cocktailresults