

ULTIMATE BEVERAGE CHALLENGE



2020 ULTIMATE SPIRIT CHALLENGE

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, mezcal, liqueur, baijiu, rum, gin, vodka, tequila shochu, or ready-to-drink cocktail? Moreover, how do USC's expert judges analytically recognize these attributes?

Judging Chairman and Co-Founder of Ultimate Spirits Challenge (USC) F. Paul Pacult explains, saying, "In the spring of each year, we convene the world's foremost group of spirits authorities and organizers, comprised of journalists, authors, consultants, educators, restaurateurs, and bar operators to carefully examine the entries involving 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 to strictly adhere to USC's uncompromising, double-blind tasting methodology.

"Conducted 30 miles north of Manhattan at the custom-designed Ultimate Beverage Challenge Evaluation Center in Hawthorne, New York, the judging panels take weeks to determine which of the entries are benchmarks. Through rigorous multiple-panel tasting procedures, the spirits that have scored the highest then go through one, and frequently two, more rounds of blind judging to arrive at the highest scoring spirits of each category. The USC judging process is admittedly the most intricate, comprehensive, and arduous in the spirits industry. And, it's that degree of analytical difficulty that makes the winning of a USC Chairman's Trophy such a monumental achievement.

"But think of it this way: When accepting the responsibility of selecting a handful of the finest spirits currently in the world, why should the road to ultimate glory be anything but hard and demanding? Unlike every other spirits competition operating in 2020, USC Chairman Trophy winners have to earn their way to the top by prevailing through multiple stages. They are not given accolades just for entering. We believe in the old-fashioned value of having to earn respectability.

"In the end, to be awarded a USC Chairman's Trophy each victorious spirit must be seamlessly integrated at every qualitative level of alcohol percentage, base material, pH, acidity, and, when necessary, wood maturation impact. This painstaking nattention to detail and dedication to purpose is why each year USC attracts the world's most respected spirits experts as judges. It is mandatory, in my view, that the most qualified women and men utilize the industry's fairest, most innovative methodology to arrive at the most accurate conclusions."

The USC Chairman's Trophy and Finalist awards identify the finest spirits in the world by category, coming this year from 45 countries. 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 operates. No shortcuts. Just honest, impartial judging.

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



CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY 2020 WINNERS

AMARO

Lucano

APERITIF/APERITIVO

Vincenzi Capasso

BAIIJU

Yushan Mikado Pheasant 8
Years Old

BRANDY

American:

Germain-Robin XO Alambic

Armagnac:

Delord 25 Years Old Bas
Armagnac

Calvados:

Calvados Christian Drouin
Pays d'Auge 2000

Cognac:

Jean Fillioux Très Vieux XO
Extra Grande Champagne

European Brandy:

Asbach Selection 21 Years
Old

Pisco:

Gran Demonio Albilla

GIN

Gin:

Gordon's Traveller's Edition
London Dry Gin

Flavored Gin:

Russell Henry Malaysian
Lime

LIQUEUR

Berry/Fruit:

Matsui Umeshu with
Japanese Brandy

Citrus/Triple Sec:

Bauchant

Cream/Dairy:

Carolans Salted Caramel
Irish Cream

Herbal/Mint/Spice/ Botanical:

METAXA Ouzo

MEZCAL

Mezcal Vago Elote

MIXER

Fever-Tree Sparkling Pink
Grapefruit Soda

READY-TO-DRINK COCKTAIL

Cutwater Spirits Fugu Vodka
Spicy Bloody Mary

RUM

Aged:

Plantation Isle of Fiji

Dark/Gold:

George Bowman Small Batch
Colonial Era Dark Caribbean
Rum

Flavored:

Plantation Stiggins' Fancy
Pineapple

White/Silver:

BLY

SHOCHU

iichiko Frasco

TEQUILA, 100% AGAVE

Blanco/Plata:

Tequila Ocho Single Estate

Reposado:

Storywood Speyside 7 CS

Añejo:

818 Tequila

Extra Añejo:

Avión Reserva 44

VERMOUTH

Cinzano 1757 Vermouth di
Torino Rosso

VODKA

Boyd & Blair Potato

WHISKY - CANADA

Heaven's Door Bootleg Series
2019 Edition 26 Years Old

WHISKY - IRELAND

Blended:

Jameson Bow Street Cask
Strength 18 Years Old

Single Pot Still:

Green Spot Chateau Leoville
Barton

Single Malt:

Teeling Single Cask

WHISKY - SCOTLAND

Blended:

Dewar's Double Double 27
Years Old

Blended Malt:

Wemyss Malts Peat Chimney

Single Malt-Highland:

Oban 18 Years Old

Single Malt-Island:

Highland Park 21 Year Old

Single Malt-Islay:

Kilchoman Sanaig

Single Malt-Speyside:

The Glenrothes 18 Years Old

WHISKEY - USA

American/Other:

Barrell Dovetail

Bottled-In-Bond:

Henry McKenna Single
Barrel 10 Years Old Kentucky
Straight Bourbon

Bourbon:

Stagg, Jr. Kentucky Straight
Bourbon

Rye:

Thomas H. Handy Sazerac
Straight Rye Whiskey

Single Malt:

Westland Garryana 2019
Edition 4|1

WHISKY - WORLD

The Matsui Mizunara Cask
Single Malt