VODKA WITH AN OLD-SCHOOL, PROHIBITION-AGE SOPHISTICATION

BY LAURA TOMASDA

Vodka has a way of outrshining other spirits. Its colorless, odorless characteristics make it the ideal candidate for mixing specialty cocktails or simply enjoying on the rocks. Despite so many vodka brands on the market, we’ve uncovered one of the best right here in New York. Bootlegger 21 New York Vodka, manufactured by Prohibition Distillery, is making quite the impact in the alcohol industry. Partners Brian Facquet and John Walsh are two passionate entrepreneurs who were novices to the industry, but who have forged to the forefront of the artisanal spirits movement. This reminds us of the integrity, character, and passion of the American craftsmanship” explained Walsh.

From its apothecary flint-glass bottle to its “Medicinal Alcohol” prescription label, Bootlegger 21 Vodka is a flashback to the 1920s and the Prohibition era, when the 18th Amendment, prohibiting the sale of alcohol in the US went into effect. This created opportunity for “bootleggers” to illegally distribute alcohol from the East End of Long Island to all points west until the 21st Amendment was signed by President Roosevelt in 1933. Prohibition Distillery celebrates the 21st Amendment, repealing prohibition.

At the core of its mission, Bootlegger holds social responsibility as a paramount principal to the responsible growth of their company. “Brian and I always try to make a difference in the lives of our family and the community around us,” says Walsh. They have sponsored events ranging from Art Miami’s Lotus House, The Common Table at Quail Hill, Music for Tomorrow, American Cancer, Humane Society, Fallen Heroes, and various foundations for art and music.

BooHegger 21 is six times distilled from 100 percent corn, which gives an uncommonly smooth mouth feel with a touch of sweetness on the finish. The founders refer to their gluten-free product as a “sipping vodka.” Since hitting the market, Bootlegger has received “exceptional” ratings from both the Beverage Tasting Institute (BTI) and The Tasting Panel. BTI notes “delicate aromas of toasted custard puff pastry and praline with a soft, silky dryish character and a clean, balanced finish. The存 founders refer to their gluten-free product as a “sipping vodka.” Since hitting the market, Bootlegger has received “exceptional” ratings from both the Beverage Tasting Institute (BTI) and The Tasting Panel. BTI notes “delicate aromas of toasted custard puff pastry and praline with a soft, silky dryish character and a clean, balanced finish.

After two years of devoted research and development, Star Vodka debuted in 2010. ‘I created Star Vodka for the consumer who appreciates quality and desires a smooth-tasting spirit that doesn’t need to be dulled with mixers to be enjoyed,” says Ferri. The ultra-premium American vodka undergoes a five-time filtration process through organically cooled lava rock in the scenic Cascade Mountains and is then carefully distilled to ensure a gluten-free, super smooth tasting product that is savory enough to drink on the rocks. Ferri makes sure that the elite crowd has vodka that is treated with the exceptional care it deserves.

Charles Ferri knows a few things about luxury. As a former New York City financier and club owner, his high-end clientele products meet that’s high standards. In 2008, Ferri went on a quest to fill the void he felt existed in the spirit equation – high-quality American vodka that people actually enjoyed drinking.

“Vision Vodka was created to be the smoothest vodka in the world, as judged by the majority of vodka drinkers — people who want it to taste just as clean, tasteless, and easy to drink as water. We didn’t much care what the experts would say, but it turns out the experts love it too,” said Montiz. Vision Vodka recently won a gold medal in the prestigious San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Using the highest quality of grain and distilling the vodka five times results in an unparalleled taste that everyone seems to agree on.

Keep an eye out for Vision Vodka as it makes its way into many liquor stores and your favorite restaurants and elite clubs. A great date idea: escape to the alluring Hudson Rooftop Terrace, ask for Vision by name, and be prepared to leave your old vodka behind.