



# OFF DUTY

## Yankee Spirits

**IN KEEPING WITH** the hyper-local mission at Vinland in Portland, Maine, every element in bartender Alex Winthrop's robust drinks menu—from the bourbon in the cranberry-accented Red Rabbit cocktail to the evergreen syrup in the Pine Gimlet—is sourced from within the six New England states. "We couldn't have done this five years ago," he said. "But, 200 years ago? Maybe." Mr. Winthrop's correct: In the 18th century, rum distilleries lined the New England coast. Happily for today's thirsty Yanks, the region's current homegrown spirit revival is a bit more diverse. Here, some bottles to look for:



**Ethereal Gin,**  
 Berkshire Mountain  
 Distillery,  
 43% ABV

A pretty, deeply aromatic, numbered-edition gin from one of the region's pioneering outfits. Distiller Chris Weld adjusts the ratio of botanicals with every run, so no two batches are ever completely alike.



**Barr Hill Gin,**  
 Caledonia Spirits,  
 45% ABV

Ever wonder what would happen if a lifelong beekeeper took up boozemaking? Here's your answer. The addition of raw Vermont honey just before bottling gives this gently floral gin a lovely roundness in the mouth.



**Chesuncook Botanical Spirit,**  
 Maine Craft  
 Distilling,  
 45% ABV

The pale golden hue of this super-small release from a new player in Portland, Maine, belies a not-so-secret ingredient: carrots. Warm and vegetal, with tequila-esque bite, it's ideal for a Bloody Mary.



**Bully Boy Boston Rum,**  
 Bully Boy  
 Spirits, 40% ABV

Brothers Will and Dave Willis created this dark, silky blackstrap molasses spirit in an homage to their hometown's rum-soaked past.

Aging in a combination of bourbon and red wine barrels softens the edges (yes, you could sip this on ice) and lends a subtle fruitiness.



**The Notch 10,**  
 Triple Eight  
 Distillery,  
 46% ABV

This one-of-a-kind, award-winning "Notch" (aka Nantucket Scotch) is distilled from Maris Otter malt and finished in French oak casks from local wineries. Word is it owes its smoothness to slow aging in Nantucket's foggy, Scotland-like climate.



**Gunpowder Rye,**  
 New England  
 Distilling,  
 43.5% ABV

Booze is in Ned Wight's blood. In the 1850s, his great-great-grandfather ran a distillery outside Baltimore; now Mr. Wight uses the old family recipe to craft this balanced, slightly herbal "Maryland-style" rye—meaning 100% rye and barley—using Maine-grown grains. —S.K.

F. Martin Ramin/The Wall Street Journal (bottles)