

Whisky

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THE ART OF ENTERTAINING WITH WHISKY



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Pour Man's Cocktail

Ready-to-drink whiskey cocktails that taste like homemade

A deftly-crafted homemade Old-Fashioned or Manhattan is tough to beat. But all that measuring, muddling, stirring, and fussing can present a delay in drinking pleasure, especially when you're playing host. Fortunately, the best ready-to-drink bottled cocktails closely replicate a bar experience—minus the mixologist. Once dismissed as cloyingly sweet shortcuts, today's bottled cocktails can rival drinks born of the best bartenders, according to Ansley Coale, CEO of California-based Craft Distillers—the company that offers the barrel-aged Fluid Dynamics cocktail line. “When you allow excellent ingredients to marry over a period of time, instead of drinking a cocktail right after you mixed it, the richness and flavor increase exponentially,” says Coale. Go ahead and slip your friends our top picks—we'll never tell.

Bully Boy Old Fashioned

37%, \$30/750 ml

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE The high-rye pot still whiskey of Boston's first craft distillery, aged in charred 53-gallon new American oak barrels,

meets raw sugar and Angostura bitters. (Currently available in select New England states.)

TASTES LIKE Baking spice notes evoke winter holidays and keep the sweetness—brown sugar, maple syrup—in check. Ginger, clove, and savory spice, along with tangy orange, offer balance. *bullyboystillers.com*

Crooked Water Spirits Manley's Old Fashioned

37.5%, \$45/750 ml

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE Demerara sugar and two types of bitters (Angostura and Bittercube Orange Bitters) dance with bourbon at least 2 years of age, sourced from Wisconsin-based Yahara Bay Distillers and others. Serve over ice with an orange twist. (Available in six states including California and New York.)

TASTES LIKE Prominent orange notes are punctuated by ginger, vanilla, and spice, including cinnamon stick, plus iced tea. The sweetness is pronounced, but not overpowering, lending richness that is tempered by the bitters. *crookedwaterspirits.com*

Fluid Dynamics The 1850 Cocktail

34.75%, \$64/liter, \$20/200 ml

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE Tamar Distillery in Redwood Valley, California, remixes the Sazerac with Germain-Robin brandy, Low Gap whiskey, and a touch of absinthe for authenticity. Add bitters and serve over ice.

TASTES LIKE Spirit-forward with a nose of luscious pears and dates, as well as chocolate. The palate is peppery, tart, and full, with ginger and anise notes before the elegant finish of caramel, licorice, and butterscotch. *craftdistillers.com*

High West 36th Vote Barreled Manhattan

37%, \$50/750 ml

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE Non-chill filtered 95% rye whiskey (from Indiana's MGP Ingredients) joins sweet vermouth and bitters for a 90-day stay in used barrels to harmonize the flavors. Tasty stirred and strained, with ice or neat.

TASTES LIKE Profoundly fruity and a bit funky thanks to generous vermouth—with pronounced orange notes balancing out the spicy rye and dark cherry flavors, but not overly sweet. *highwest.com*

Old Forester Mint Julep

30%, \$30/liter

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE Everything in the Kentucky Derby classic but the ice—bourbon, mint oil, and sugar. No wonder they serve over 120,000 Juleps at the Derby each year! Simply pour over crushed ice and add mint leaves.

TASTES LIKE A refreshing easy-drinker; the sweetness here is just right. Highly honeyed and mighty minty—almost medicinal—with a viscous mouthfeel. *oldforester.com*

Wandering Barman Boomerang

30%, \$7/100 ml

DRY ● **SWEET**

IN THE BOTTLE Bourbon, New York maple syrup, hickory-smoke concentrate, and orange bitters earn this comparison to a “burnt maple Old-Fashioned.” (New York only, with national distribution planned for 2020.)

TASTES LIKE Menthol and citrus aromas lead to pronounced savory and smoky bacon-like flavors. Pleasingly woody with sweet brown sugar and herbs, turning dry on the finish. *wanderingbarman.com*

—Zak Kostro