

The Spirit of the Midwest

January 31, 2011

Finally, a collection of spirits for a Midwestern Gentleman. Beer has always been at the heart of the Midwest and Midwestern wine has slowly begun to infiltrate the market. It is the world of spirits that is naturally the next step.

Fine vodkas like Grey Goose and Belvedere just don't cut it for a MWG, these are distilled in a far off world and trucked all around the country. These vodkas have become synonymous with class when really they are merely large batched spirits with a great marketing plan. From Beefeater to Gordon's, London produces much of the world's gins but is still not enough for a Midwestern Gentleman. Kentucky has long supplied the world with fine bourbons but it is time now for the Midwest to step up and the gentleman at Death's Door Spirits have done so.

[Death's Door Spirits](#) of Madison, WI gives us three spirits that are all distilled right here in the Midwest. From the juniper berries in the gin to the Minnesota oak barrels distilling the whisky, everything is as Midwestern as the wheat fields that span the area (which by the way these guys use too). These gents have given us 3 spirits worthy of a MWG's palate and are a cut above the rest. Just like our beer, we prefer our drink to come from small batches and these sauces are by far a cut above the rest.



#1 Death's Door Gin

By using wild, organic juniper berries from Washington Island, WI along with coriander and fennel seeds from farmlands all over Wisconsin, DDS supplies us with a London style dry gin that uses only Midwestern amenities. We could give you the artsy-fartsy taste testing talk using words like "aroma, notes, dry-yet-fruity, medium to full bodied" but no, we are telling you this baby is simply crisp and clean. Nothing beats a crisp, dry gin which makes for a great G&T, perfect after a long day of skiing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula or snowshoeing along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.



#2 Death's Door Vodka

Same as the gin, the wheat and malted barley that make up this vodka are all from the Midwest. Similar to other vodkas on the market this one is triple distilled making it a very clean and concentrated vodka. A product as fine as this one deserves to be sipped on straight up before you reach for any mixers. A splash of water will help ease the bite and bring out what we think may have been a bit of vanilla for a smooth ride down to the belly. Perfect for drinking while enjoying a meal of quail meat and vegetables.



#3 Death's Door White Whisky

When many think whisky they think of the dark amber glow that comes from distinct bottles of Jim Beam or Jack Daniels. However, the dark whisky many are use to is due to the aging process that bourbons and mashes go through, collecting their color from the wood barrels, freshly distilled spirits are always colorless. If there was one way to make a Midwestern whisky, this would be it, according to DDS the whisky is "Made with organic hard, red winter wheat from Washington Island, Wisconsin and organic malted barley from Chilton, WI. Double fermented using and, double distilled in 90 gallon pot still then rested for 72 hours in uncharred Minnesota oak." This makes for a unique yet undeniable flavor and perfect for the ultimate Winter Cocktail recipe...

Maple Whisky Milk Punch

- 2 oz Death's Door White Whisky
- ½ oz Rum
- ½ oz Grade B Wisconsin Maple Syrup
- 6 oz Organic Valley 2% Milk
- Fresh Nutmeg

The gentlemen at [Death's Door Spirits](#) show that they are truly Midwesterners by letting you into their home. The website is full of information on all of their products, how they are made, where the ingredients come from and even [info on Washington Island](#), a place they hold dear to their hearts. Also, if that wasn't enough, each year they donate a portion of their annual revenue to Great Lakes conservation efforts.

Death's Door Spirits is just more proof to why the Midwest is the greatest place on earth. As you continue to expand your MWG status be sure to look for these brands at your local store. Lastly, remember to always support the Midwest and continue to live the Great Lakes good life...