

CIRCUS MAXIMUS

## MICRO BOOZE

THANKS TO THE CRAFT-BEER BOOM, U.S. MOONSHINERS (THEY PREFER "ARTISAN DISTILLERS") ARE FOLLOWING SUIT. THEY'RE HERE, THEY HAVE BEARDS, AND THEY MAKE DAMN FINE HOOCH! CHECK OUT OUR FIVE FAVORITE SMALL-BATCH POTABLES. GET TO SIPPING.

BY MIKE DAWSON



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**DEATH'S DOOR VODKA**  
Washington Island, Wisconsin \$34, [deathsdoorspirits.com](http://deathsdoorspirits.com)  
Velvety, with hints of vanilla, this triple-distilled Midwest liver juice is made from a strain of Wisconsin native wheat that sounds like an Eskimo porn title: Hard Red Winter. This crazy-smooth vodka can go head-to-head with the best Polish punch. Savor ice-cold or guzzle in an ultra-dry martini before besting a colorfully named archvillain.

**RAGGED MOUNTAIN RUM**  
Sheffield, Massachusetts \$30, [berkshirermountaindistillers.com](http://berkshirermountaindistillers.com)  
You don't need white-sand beaches and postcolonial poverty to make rum. All you need is molasses, water, yeast, heat, and a big-ass kettle. Because rum is so easy (and cheap) to whip up, many small distillers include it in their liquor lineups. Our favorite is this Massachusetts mash, because it tends more toward Maker's Mark than Bacardi. Creamy and sweet, it'll warm your chest (and nuts) in a hurry.

**THREE OTHER SMALL THINGS THAT PACK A PUNCH**

+ SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL



+ BHUT JOLOKIA **WORLD'S HOTTEST PEPPER**

+ GARY COLEMAN

