

# Top 10 American Spirits

BY KARA NEWMAN



Are you ready for a fabulous Fourth? Here's a shortlist of great All-American spirits to help you celebrate America's Independence Day.

**1. Bluecoat Gin (Pennsylvania)**

That vibrant blue bottle alone is enough to get us in a celebratory mood, let alone the dry, juniper-forward gin inside. Martini, anyone?

**2. Buffalo Trace Straight Bourbon Whiskey (Kentucky)**

Though all Bourbons are made in America, this one is an old favorite – smooth, balanced, and versatile.

**3. Crusoe Spiced Rum (California)**

Most rums are made in the Caribbean. But this one, from the makers of Modern Spirits, is made in Los Angeles. It's delicately spiced, made from a blend of organic molasses and sugarcane. (Since it's still in limited distribution, here's where to find it: [crusoerum.com/find.html](http://crusoerum.com/find.html))

**4. Death's Door White Whiskey (Wisconsin)**

This clear, un-aged whiskey known as "white dog" also makes a fine whiskey sour.

**5. Hangar One Mandarin Blossom Vodka (California)**

This artisanal distiller makes a beautiful citrus-flavored vodka, with hints of honeyed orange and floral aromas. Think ethereal vodka tonics while you fire up the grill.

**6. Jack Daniels (Tennessee)**

The classic Tennessee whiskey for Jack & Coke, or Jack & Ginger.

**7. Laird's Applejack (New Jersey)**

What's applejack? It's 35% apple brandy and 65% neutral spirits. It's also a key ingredient in the classic Jack Rose cocktail, and as American as...wait for it...apple pie.

**8. Tito's Handmade Vodka (Texas)**

Made just outside Austin, in the state's first (legal) distillery.

**9. Tuthilltown Manhattan Rye (New York)**

Inspired by the Manhattan cocktail, this cult favorite is described as floral and fruity, with a recognizable rye edge.

**10. Wild Turkey American Honey (Kentucky)**

This sweet treat comes from one of the premier bourbon producers. Sip a little of this liqueur over ice as you watch the Fourth of July fireworks. A perfect way to end a spirited holiday weekend.