

## Death's Door spirits gaining international attention

By CHRIS MARTELL | Wisconsin State Journal | [cmartell@madison.com](mailto:cmartell@madison.com)

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Death's Door Spirits' White Whisky made the front page of the New York Times Dining section, and in the June edition of Food and Wine magazine it's described as "an excellent, vanilla-flecked white whisky." A January article in the Chicago Tribune called it "a strange and fascinating spirit that makes a complex cocktail base." (Published caption 1/7/08) A Manhattan made with Death's Door whiskey, one of the few and perhaps the only clear whiskey available on Madison-area backbars. MIKE DeVRIES -- The Capital Times

Death's Door Spirits' White Whisky has been showered with national attention in recent months. It made the front page of the New York Times Dining section, and in the June edition of Food and Wine magazine it's described as "an excellent, vanilla-flecked white whisky." A January article in the Chicago Tribune called it "a strange and fascinating spirit that makes a complex cocktail base."

Last month, owner Brian Ellison was a panelist at the first-ever Manhattan Cocktail Classic, a gathering of mixologists, distributors and suppliers, as well as cocktail fans. The subject was the positive impact the micro-spirits industry has had on the United States' agriculture and economy.

"We're restoring farmland, and creating quality export products," Ellison said in an interview. On Washington Island, where wheat is grown for Death's Door spirits, acreage has grown from five to 1,200.

The rest of the world is also learning about the little Madison-based distillery. Death's Door is exporting its gin to the United Kingdom, and is in talks with distributors in Germany and Australia.

Ellison named White Whisky without the more common "e" in the spelling because he wanted people to associate the brand with small grain, Northern spirits rather than the large grain, corn-based, Southern spirits of Kentucky or Tennessee.

When asked about the many comparisons of white whisky, (which is not aged, so it's clear instead of brown) to "moonshine" or "white dog," Ellison said, "Some people think you drink this from a Mason jar, and it'll blow the back of your head off."

"This is a nice sipping spirit; people say 'Wow, this tastes a lot better than I thought it would.' It's the hot new thing right now."

Death's Door white whisky is available at numerous local stores, with a suggested retail price of \$32.99 for a 750ML bottle.

## Washington Island Iced Tea

### HIGHBALL GLASS

½ oz. Death's Door Vodka

½ oz. Death's Door Gin

1 oz. Death's Door White Whisky

½ oz. simple syrup

½ oz. Cointreau

½ oz. lemon juice, fresh

Top Coke

**GARNISH:** lemon wedge

*Shake all ingredients except coke in iced cocktail shaker. Strain into ice-filled highball glass. Top with a splash of coke and garnish with lemon wedge.*

## Summer Dress

### HIGHBALL GLASS

2 oz. Death's Door White Whisky

1 oz. orange juice, fresh

1 oz. lime juice, fresh

½ oz. simple syrup

Top Q Tonic

**GARNISH:** orange slice

*Build ingredients (except tonic) in ice-filled highball glass. Gently stir and top with Q Tonic. Garnish with orange*