



HOT NEW SMALL BATCH GINS Metromix - Chicago

Red Eye Alert

Hot small-batch gins

Get to know 6 small-batch gins on the rise
By Lisa Arnett

Small-batch gins have been the darlings of mixology-focused lounges like the Violet Hour, In Fine Spirits and Sable since their bartenders poured their first cocktail. But lately, boutique bottles are popping up on shelves of more bars and restaurants next to big guys such as Tanqueray and Bombay Sapphire.

Gin drinkers, you might just find your new favorite on this list. Gin haters, hold up. Unique ingredients—from rose petals to raspberries—soften that Pine-Sol-like sting that so many juniper-heavy gins are known for.

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SMALL'S AMERICAN DRY

Made in: Sheridan, Oreg. by the same makers as Ransom

Tasting notes: Spicy with a touch of cardamom, anise and raspberry

Drink it at: the basement cocktail lounge at Fedora. Order the Simone (\$13), a concoction of muddled mint and lime that's strained and served in a martini glass. Also, Wicker Park restaurant Cumin pours a simple Small's gin and tonic (\$8) to complement its Indian and Nepalese dishes.



RANSOM OLD TOM

Made in: Sheridan, Ore.

Tasting notes: Malty, like a cross between gin and whiskey. This revival of the Old Tom style of gin from the mid-1800s is aged for months in oak barrels.

Order it at: Logan Square tavern Cole's, where owner Coleman Brice suggests it as an alternative to whiskey neat or whiskey and soda (\$5).



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