

## October 2010 “Gin Revolution”

### Small's

#### Small's American Dry Gin

“The cocktail craze has inspired a gin revolution, with four new brands deserving particular attention.”

“Small's Gin, a dry gin with a unique range of botanicals, including juniper, orange, lemon and local raspberries. It's heavy on the cardamom with caraway and fruit notes in the background. Use in a *Barton's Special* (1/2 gin, 1/4 calvados and 1/4 scotch) for a unique Indian-spiced twist on an old classic.”

—Chris Hallowell



#### Gin Revolution

The cocktail craze has inspired a gin revolution, with four new brands deserving particular attention. G'Vine is perhaps the most unusual, a gin that begins life in the vineyard. Based on an ugni blanc brandy from Cognac and macerated with grape vine blossoms, it's delightfully floral, reminiscent of dandelions and roses with an unusually silky texture. It's built for cocktails with citrus and other fresh ingredients.

Darnley's View, the latest from the Wemyss Whisky Company in Edinburgh, sticks to a more classic London dry gin formula. Relying on juniper, lemon peel, coriander seed, angelica root, orris root and elderflower, it's a light, dry gin with tremendous botanical clarity, gaining delicacy on the palate as it moves from floral to citrus flavors. Mix it in a Martini with Dolin Dry Vermouth for a palate-whetting aperitif.

Then there's Ransom Old Tom, a gin that feels almost like a whiskey. Built on a malted barley and corn base and barrel aged, it's the result of a collaboration between Ransom Spirits in Oregon and cocktail historian David Wondrich, who together set out to create a gin that could have appeared in a bar pre-Prohibition. With lots of citrus, a touch of mouthwatering sweetness and a somewhat Sherry-like finish, it can make for a substantial cocktail. Try it in a Tuxedo: 1 part Ransom Old Tom, 1 part dry vermouth, 2 dashes maraschino, 1 dash absinthe and 2 dashes orange bitters, stirred, with a maraschino cherry and a lemon twist.

Ransom has also introduced Small's Gin, a dry gin with a unique range of botanicals, including juniper, orange, lemon and local raspberries. It's heavy on the cardamom, with caraway and fruit notes in the background. Use in a Barton's Special (1/2 gin, 1/4 calvados and 1/4 scotch) for a unique Indian-spiced twist on an old classic. As with any of the selections here, it's a great addition to an ambitious bartender's collection.

—CHRIS HALLOWELL



LOCAL WINE COMPANY | Artisan Wines & Spirits Made in the USA  
118 North Peoria, Suite 3A | Chicago, Illinois 60607  
www.localwinecompany.com | 312.421.1900 office | 312.421.1977 fax



Be a Fan on Facebook  
Follow on Twitter @localwineco