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Manhattan Cocktail Classic



The five-day Manhattan Cocktail Classic kicks off on May 14 with a gala event at the New York Public Library. There are many events at many locations during the five days. One of them is the Micro Spirits Odyssey, which takes place at Butter Restaurant, up the block from Astor Center (the location of many of the week's events). The Micro Spirits Odyssey (May 16) is an all-day micro-distilling extravaganza featuring dozens of boutique brands, creative cocktails and gourmet culinary pairings. The tasting room will present craft brands, micro distillers and food. There will also be four seminars focusing on different aspects of the growing artisan distillery movement and a bar and a lounge area featuring the boutique brands in cocktails concocted by the team at Hush Cocktails.

The Micro Spirits Odyssey seminars include:

- Develop and Market Your Own Spirits Brand - Industry Primer — with Dave Schmier, Dave Pickerel, Melkon Khosrovian and Courtney Reum
- From Moonshine to Mastery - Stories From Behind the Stills — with Junior Johnson, Erin Williams, Brian Van Flandern and Allen Katz
- Our "ForeBroads" — with Melanie Asher - CEO Macchu Pisco; Alexandra Guarnaschelli - Executive Chef, Butter Restaurant; Lynette Marrero - LUPEC NYC chapter president; Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan - Master of Wine; and Erin Williams - Founder, Hush Cocktails
- New York Craft Distillers Guild - Spirits are the Next Big Artisanal Farm Product — with Gable Erenzo - Tuthilltown Spirits, Derek Grout - Harvest Spirits, Jeremy Kidd - American Fruits Distillery/Warwick Valley Winery, Brian McKenzie - Finger Lakes Distillery, Richard Stabile - LiV Vodka/Long Island Distillery and Peter Vasconcellos - Bar Manager, Blue Hill NY

The entire list of events for the Manhattan Cocktail Classic is available on the website: www.manhattancocktailclassic.com.

The producers of the Manhattan Cocktail Classic have offered a 25% discount on tickets to the Micro Spirits Odyssey to readers of *Modern Distillery Age* (use the code "MCCFriend" on the website).

DISCUS Weighs in on Proposed Alcohol Control Legislation

Below is a letter the Distilled Spirits Council (DISCUS) sent to all members of Congress urging legislators not to co-sponsor H.R. 5034, legislation supported by the wholesale tier that DISCUS claims "would severely undermine the longstanding framework of alcohol control merely to benefit one tier of the industry."

Dear Member of Congress:

For over 75 years, the beverage alcohol industry has been effectively regulated at the federal, state and local level. We are therefore deeply concerned that legislation introduced with support from the beer wholesalers (H.R. 5034) would destroy this careful balance. For good reason, the beverage alcohol industry is sharply divided over the merits of this controversial and ill-conceived proposal. Distilled spirits, wine and beer companies are strongly opposed to the legislation and we urge you not to co-sponsor the bill.

We recognize and support states' rights to regulate beverage alcohol pursuant to the 21st Amendment and remain equally strong in our support of the three-tier system, but we question why any legislation so fraught with unintended consequences is needed to change the current system.

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Gemini Spirits & Wine Acquires Worldwide Rights to Margaritaville Tequila, RTDs and Rums

Gemini Spirits & Wine has acquired the worldwide rights to produce, distribute and market spirits brands from Margaritaville Holdings. The line-up of products includes tequila, flavored tequilas, rum, ready to drink margaritas and mojitos. The Gemini sales and marketing team has taken over responsibilities from Margaritaville Spirits while Luxco continues to produce, fulfill orders, invoice and administrate the brand for approximately 90 days from the transfer on April 30, after which time production and administrative duties will transfer to the Sazerac company (the owner of Gemini Spirits & Wine).

"We are delighted with the Margaritaville acquisition," said Ken Kwarta, General Manager of Gemini Spirits & Wine, "which will complement our existing

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