

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



2026 SUNSET INTERNATIONAL SPIRITS COMPETITION ANNOUNCES WINNERS GRIFFO DISTILLERY'S SCOTT STREET GIN TAKES TOP HONORS

SANTA ROSA, CALIF. – Winners have been announced in the 2026 Sunset International Spirits Competition. This year's winner is a stellar entry from Griffco Distillery in Sonoma County, Calif. The producer's Scott Street Gin wowed judges with its "Great botanicals and complete citrus — tangerine and sweet lemon notes." They also called it "stylish, upper tier and nicely balanced."

"Griffco Scott Street Gin is a fresh California take on a London Dry Gin," says Head Distiller Dylan Carney. "It's bright and citrusy, thanks to Sonoma Meyer lemons 'locally foraged' by friends and neighbors. Wild juniper is balanced out with organic botanicals and spices such as Cubeb pepper and grains of paradise. All using water from the Russian River Valley."

Other medal winners included products from across the globe, including Australia, Belize and multiple U.S. states. "I continue to be impressed by the wide breadth of competitors, year after year," says Debra Del Fiorentino, owner of Wine Competitions Management at Production, which oversees the Sunset International Spirits Competition. "As word gets out about this prestigious event, we have more interest from around the world. It's a testament to the reputation Sunset has established as a style leader and lifestyle brand."

Griffco CEO Will Maroun agrees: "We've always viewed *Sunset Magazine* as the quintessential capsule of the American West as a *lifestyle*, so as a brand that strives to reflect the beauty and bounty of



California Wine Country in our spirits, we feel like we're in kindred company.”

He continues, “Especially as a West Coast brand, this win is such a badge of honor, so we'll be shouting from the rooftops — in the most tasteful way possible, of course.”

Now in its eighth year, the Sunset International Spirits Competition is open to commercial distillers of all sizes, with judging categories based on spirit type, production techniques and price points. Winning producers will be featured in a Fall release of a Wine and Spirits Special non-print, digital edition with supporting microsite. Promotions for the Spirits Award Special Issue will be placed in sunset.com, Sunset eNewsletters and Sunset social sites. The edition will be promoted and available for 12 months or until the following years' Spirits Awards winners are announced.

Go to sunsetcompetitions.com/sunset-international-spirits-competition/ for a full list of winners.

About Sunset

Sunset shares the best of life in the West—from travel and food to home and garden—with an audience of more than 6 million. Sunset showcases the region's unique lifestyle and noteworthy destinations, inspiring readers to achieve the dream of living in the West. Sunset.com is the West's essential guide to all the best things about the region: easy outdoor living and gardening, unexpected day trips and destinations, fast and fresh foods, shockingly perfect wine pairings, and innovative home decorating and design. www.sunset.com

About Wine Competitions Management & Production (WCMP)

WCMP owns and operates a variety of competitions including Sunset International Wine Competition, West Coast Wine Competition, International Eastern Wine Competition, East Meets West, International Women's Wine & Spirits Competition, Harvest Challenge, the Craft Distillers Spirits Competition, Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge, and Experience Rosé. www.winecompetitions.com

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2026 Sunset International Spirits Competition Best of Class Awards

Best of the Best, Best Gin

Griffo Distillery Scott Street Gin (BOC, GG, 97 pts.)

Judges: Great botanicals and complete citrus — tangerine and sweet lemon notes; stylish, upper tier and nicely balanced

Best Vodka

Griffo Distillery Vodka (BOC, G, 94)

Judges: Elegant and balanced; smooth, rich mouthfeel; floral

Best Tequila

Pantalones Organic Tequila Reposado (BOC, GG, 98)

Judges: Delicious crème brûlée; chocolate mouthfeel; very well made.

Best Mezcal

Los Perdidos De La Noche Mezcal - Reposado Artesanal (BOC, GG, 94)
Judges: Charred banana leaf; elegant, balanced and earthy

Best Rum

Rhum Barbancourt Estate Reserve 15-year-old (BOC, GG, 95)
Judges: Well made, with rich, bold, elegant edges; integrated, balanced caramel

Best Straight Rye, Best Special Barrel Finished

Angel's Envy Cellar Collection Vol. 5 - Straight Rye Whiskey Finished in French Oak
Extra Añejo Tequila Barrels (BOC, GG, 99)
Judges: Creamy mousse, silky; clean citrus and floral; warm spice and long finish

Best Single Barrel American Whiskey

Uncle Nearest Single Barrel Whiskey - Batch 3633 (BOC, G, 94)
Judges: Luxurious, dense, layered and balanced

Best Whiskey, Best Tennessee Whiskey

Uncle Nearest 1884 Small Batch Whiskey (BOC, GG, 98)
Judges: Amazing, well-made; caramel and lemongrass.

Best Brandy

Korbel Classic Brandy (BOC, GG, 96)
Judges: Complex, clean and balanced; vanilla, citrus notes and marzipan

Best Aperitif

Branca USA Carpano Rosso Sweet Vermouth (BOC, G, 94)
Judges: Plum, hoisin, white flower and white pepper

Best Specialty Spirit

Bacan Guaro (BOC, GG, 97)
Judges: Licorice/fennel; clean, smooth; aromatics of sea breeze

Best Ready to Drink

Griffo Distillery Espresso Martini (BOC, GG, 95)
Judges: Rich and complex; cacao

Best Ready to Drink (Cider-based)

2 Towns Ciderhouse Craftwell Guava Crush (BOC, GG, 94)
Judges: True guava; delicate; delicious light cider notes

Best Mixer

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks Ginger Beer (BOC, G, 96)
Judges: Fresh, clean and crisp with good aromas

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