



THE SEASON'S TOP

New Spirits

Late autumn is the time of year when producers debut their latest spirits. F&W finds the best of the bunch and shares other must-haves for dedicated amateur mixologists.

BY RAY ISLE



SPIRITS OF ADVENTURE

Boyd & Blair Potato Vodka (\$32) This small-batch spirit is handmade in custom German pot stills, a more artisanal method than the column stills typically used for vodka. The potatoes come from a Pennsylvania farm.

Gran Classico Bitter (\$30) Mixologists are creating smart riffs on the Negroni using this newly imported, Campari-like Swiss aperitivo. It's a bittersweet infusion of bitter orange peel, gentian, rhubarb, herbs and roots.

Banks 5 Island Rum (\$28) Named after the explorer Sir Joseph Banks, this crisp, fragrant white rum is a blend from distilleries in five Caribbean locations: Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica, plus a "secret" one.

Belvedere Intense Unfiltered 80 (\$35) Baker's-grade rye is used in this smooth, lightly peppery vodka, the latest in Belvedere's "intense" series. Its flavor fits its name, so serve it neat and icy cold.

Excellia Añejo Tequila (\$75) Noted tequila distiller Carlos Camarena and master Cognac distiller Jean Sebastien Robicquet teamed up for this peppery añejo that's aged in Cognac and Sauternes barrels.