



4 April 2016

### **Fantastic haul for Aussie spirits at World Spirits Competition**

Australian distilleries have covered themselves in medals and glory at one of the world's most prestigious spirits competition awards announced last week.

A remarkable four double gold medals, six golds, nine silvers and five bronze medals was the haul from the 16<sup>th</sup> annual San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The competition is widely regarded as one of the spirit world's most prestigious and certainly one of the largest with a record 1850 entries and 39 leading judges.

Aussie Rum from the West was the stand-out performer with two rums – The Grove Caribbean Spiced Rum from Margaret River and The Hoochery's Spike's Reserve 10 Year Old Ord River Rum from Kununurra both collecting Double Gold Medals. Starward Whisky and Four Pillars Gin were the other two Double Gold medal winners from the Aussie contingent.

Aussie gin has stormed onto the global stage in recent years and gold medals were awarded to West Winds, Archie Rose, McHenry, Shene Estate, Distillery Botanica and Hippocampus for their respective gin styles. Mr Black Cold Pressed Coffee Liqueur was also awarded a Gold Medal. Other medals were won by a whole range of spirits including White Rye, vodka, gin and even moonshine. A Gold Medal was also awarded to Archie Rose for the design and packaging of their Gin, Vodka and White Rye.

The good news from San Francisco spread right across the USA and coincided with the announcement that Australian spirits will be showcased at the world's biggest bartending convention Tales of the Cocktail, to be held in New Orleans from July 19-22.

The "Uniquely Australian" session at Tales will be co-hosted by Kathleen Davies from Nip of Courage, who distribute many of the award-winning Aussie spirits, and Four Pillars Distiller Cameron Mackenzie. It will be held in New Orleans on Thursday July 21.

And in further news, our spirits also performed superbly in the World Drinks Awards in London with winners including Limeburners from Margaret River and Starward from Melbourne who collected World Whisky Awards for their whiskies.

Australia's own, highly competitive Distilled Spirits Awards, conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, will be conducted in Melbourne later in April with the results announced on April 21. It will be fascinating to see if our own home-grown judges agree with those overseas.

Full details of the World Spirits Competition winners from Australia are attached. A complete list of the World Spirits Competition winners will be posted on the San Francisco World Spirits competition website on April 4. The link to the site is <https://sfspiritscomp.com/results/overview>

For further details, please contact:

Stuart Gregor – Chair Australian Distillers Association [stuart@fourpillarsgin.com.au](mailto:stuart@fourpillarsgin.com.au). 0419526015

Mimma White – Executive Officer Australian Distillers Association [mimwhite71@hotmail.com](mailto:mimwhite71@hotmail.com)