

SIP AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL SPIRITS COMPETITION

We're delighted with your participation in the premier international consumer-based spirits competition. The 2019 SIP Awards includes nearly **900 global spirit & mixer brands** competing for your trust!

A GUIDE TO FOLLOW DURING THE TASTING

- ❖ Taste a small amount of the sample, as there are many products to go through. **We highly recommend you dispense (spit-out) most of your samples** in order to keep your focus during scoring. **Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated during the duration of the event.**
- ❖ You're welcome to discuss your notes with other judges, however, it's important that we receive your uninfluenced opinions so that your scorecard is personalized to your unique preferences.
- ❖ Rate each category separately; i.e. do not compare an unflavored vodka to a flavored vodka. Compare all samples within the given category even if they continue to multiple rounds.
- ❖ Most importantly, remember there is no right or wrong answer; we want to capture your raw uninfluenced opinion. Try to vary your scoring as much as possible to let us know where your preferences lie; i.e. you shouldn't be marking all of your samples with the same score.



SCORING & NOTES

You will mark a score from **A to F** (*"A" being the highest and "F" being the lowest*). Notes are highly recommended to be taken so that you can reference each sample to when the brands/products are revealed to you. As a judge, you will base your scoring on a combination of the following criteria:

❖ **AROMA** (*Smell*)

Begin by swirling the liquid in the glass; this motion will intensify the spirit's aroma. Hold the glass under your nose and inhale the fragrance while keeping your mouth open. What nuances in smell can you pick up? Do you smell hints of the spirit's essence?

❖ **TASTE** (*Feel*)

Take your first sip and allow the liquid to slowly enter your mouth. Note the feel and taste of this initial flow. Allow the liquid to sit on your tongue, swirl it around inside your mouth, and analyze the flavors and feel. Is it silky, smooth, warm? Are you picking up any unique flavors or not?

❖ **FINISH** (*Aftertaste*)

After ingesting or spitting, take note of the lingering feel, heat and flavor. Also notice how long the taste stays with you. Does it last a long time or does it soon leave your taste buds? Cleanse your palate in between spirits. Drink a small amount of water or eat a few unflavored crackers.

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★ INNOVATION STARS ★

Each judge will have 14 stars that can be placed on any particular **sample number** on your sheet to identify it as a unique and innovative product. These can be used in both the **tasting & design** evaluation. Regardless of whether you like or dislike the product (high or low score), we are only looking to capture which brands have peaked your interest with their innovative product.

HIGHEST QUALITY JUDGES | BONUS PRIZE

As a quality assurance method, we will be doubling up a handful of samples to determine which of you has a refined palate to spot the consistencies. Judges that mark the same score on the duplicated samples will have their scores weighted heavier during the final scoring process, as well as be honored with FREE tickets to our next event, for their focus and special skill.

** DON'T DRINK & DRIVE, ALWAYS BE RESPONSIBLE **
We recommend a taxi or rideshare service

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURES

► MUST READ ◄

DISQUALIFICATION

SIP Awards reserves the full right to disqualify at any time any person from being a judge, for any reason. Judges/Attendees cannot be directly affiliated with the spirits industry in any way (bartender/servers are welcome). If it's discovered that you are a spirit brand representative, that brand can forfeit their award and/or be disqualified from future events. If you are unsure if your affiliation is permitted, please inform us in advance.

REFUND POLICY

All fees and tickets are non-refundable but are transferable to another attendee for the same event. The new attendee would be required to agree to all the terms stated in these disclosures.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT

By attending this event, or any event hosted by SIP Awards, you acknowledge and agree that you may be photographed, videotaped or filmed by SIP Awards, the venue or an affiliate. Additionally, you consent to its use of your likeness, voice, actions, and statements for promotional purposes without compensation to you. You will receive no compensation for participating in this event.

BLIND TASTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Due to the nature of this event, all samples will be served without informing any guests the product, brand, or its ingredients, outside of being advised of the type of category. If you or your invitees/guests have any concerns for any reason, including but not limited to, allergies, health issues, personal reasons, preferences, boycott of brand/region, religious reasons and, therefore, cannot consume specific ingredients, products, and/or brands; we recommend that you inform us and immediately opt out of the judging role.

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

The SIP Awards condones responsible drinking. We highly recommend that you eat an adequate meal prior to the event and to always drink in moderation with plenty of water. Consumption of alcohol at this event is optional and a personal decision. There will be spit cups provided to each guest and it is highly recommended that they should be used throughout the duration of the spirit tasting portion of the event. You agree that any alcoholic beverages you consume are your own choice and responsibility. You agree to drink responsibly and heed suggestions from event organizers. You will NOT drive if you're intoxicated to any capability. If you are intoxicated, you agree to either plan on having a designated sober individual, taxi service or rideshare to drive you after the event. Contact information for a local taxi service will be available by request.

YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CONSUMING ALCOHOL.

INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

By attending this event, you acknowledge you are the responsible party and assume all liability for yourself and your invitees/guests for any form of negligence that may arise from the consumption of alcohol or the gifts/prizes that you may receive. You hereby agree to release and hold harmless SIP Awards, participating brands, event organizers, sponsors, the venue (including the owners, members, agents and employees) from all liability to you, your invitees/guests for any and all claims, demands, losses or damages, suits, fines, including court costs and attorneys' fees, for any injury, death, or damaged property arising out of making available/serving alcohol at this event. You hereby waive all legal rights to pursue any form of legal action against all event organizers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement consisting of the above paragraphs. I fully understand its terms and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am attending this event freely and voluntarily and intend, by my attendance, that this document is a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.