

## The Year in Spirits

From high-end rums and a perfect lemon aperitif, to small-batch gins, these were our favorite sips in 2023.

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### Guilder's Gin

Now here's a cool story. In the eighteenth century, merchant guilds smuggled tea leaves from China in gin bottles to avoid heavy taxation. Tea was a delicacy, taxed far higher than spirits at the time. This renegade nature is what inspired Guilder's Gin — western style, small-batch gin flavored with the highest tournament-grade tea leaves. These gins are some of the craziest, most delicious, and complex beverages I've ever tasted. Guilder's has three bottles in their portfolio, the first two delectable on their own or mixed into cocktails. Their third and boldest expression, Red Oolong, is made to be sipped on its own. It's flavored with tea grown and roasted by a third generation tea master, today's number 1 red oolong tea master. — *Sophie*

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