

MIXOLOGY

Be My Vermont Valentine

Show Some Love
with a Cocktail
Based on These
Green Mountain
Spirits

BY BILL BURKE

► Love Potion
recipe on page 10



The route to someone's heart quite often kicks off with the telltale rattle of a cocktail shaker.

A few sips, the right setting, and romance is in the air. Include a little Vermont flavor in the mixture, and you've got the recipe for an unforgettable evening. Of course, if Cupid called the Green Mountain State home, he'd likely be wearing plaid and working at a farmers market during mud season, but he'd also be ready with the perfect cocktail recipe when it was time to step into the spotlight — which is right now.

Vermont distillers have creativity to spare, it seems, and a sense of great timing. A quick survey of these spirits producers show they've got a quiver-full of cocktail ideas perfect for romantics. Whip up one of these sippers and Valentine's Day 2021 is made.



When Ron and Jeremy Elliot put their heads together (and their respective skillsets), it made sense that they begin building what would become **Smugglers' Notch Distillery**. With a line that includes vodkas, gins, rye whiskey, rums, bourbons and a very Vermont-tasting maple cream liqueur, there's no doubt that the spirits coming out of Jeffersonville include a strong strain of Vermont DNA.

And while it's not an official guarantee, this Smugglers' Notch-created cocktail has a very specific directive in the last line of its instructions, making it perfect for Valentine's Day. Namely: "Watch the sparks fly." Which is exactly what we want during the annual celebration of all things romance.

ON THE COVER

From Jeffersonville with Love

courtesy smugglersnotchdistillery.com

- 4 ounces Smugglers' Notch Gin
- 2 ounces Pom Wonderful
- 1 ounce simple syrup
- ½ ounce fresh-squeezed lime juice

Combine all ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake well until frosted. Strain into your favorite glass with a lemon wedge or strawberry garnish.



Elevating Drinks to Cocktails Since 1821.

Enjoy Luxardo Aperitivo Now Available in Vermont

Try it in a Spritz:

- 3 oz Prosecco
- 2 oz Aperitivo
- 1 oz Soda Water

Combine Ingredients in Large Glass with Ice and Garnish with Orange



©2021 Hotaling & Co. San Francisco.
Please Drink Responsibly.

MIXOLOGY: BE MY VERMONT VALENTINE

Morrisville's **Green Mountain Distillers** produces a line of handcrafted, organic distilled spirits and is well known for its field-to-product process. Its Original Sunshine vodka, six times distilled, is bright and clean, and the Green Mountain Organic Maple Liqueur is a rich, sweet sipper (and excellent aperitif) that offers a touch of alcohol on the finish — best served straight up or over ice.

Yet if there's a cocktail laced with love on the agenda, Green Mountain Distillers' Organic Gin is the ticket. This gin provides the welcome, fresh juniper experience, but veers away from the typical with an earthy flavor that balances everything and tames the sometimes harsh and intense taste that gin can have. It's a complex, deep gin that sits perfect in a cocktail like the Love Potion.

Love Potion

courtesy townandcountrymag.com

- 3 ounces Green Mountain Organic Gin
- 1 ounce lime juice
- 1 ounce elderflower liqueur
- 6 ounces rosé champagne
- Rose petal ice cubes* (or regular ice cubes)

In a cocktail shaker, combine the gin, elderflower liqueur and lime juice. Add ice and shake for 10 seconds. Add your rose petal ice cubes to an empty cocktail glass. Strain cocktail mixture onto the ice, top with rosé champagne and enjoy.

* Rose Petal Ice Cubes

- Ice cube tray
- Distilled or spring water
- Untreated/pesticide-free rose petals or whole spray rose flowerheads (*Florist shop roses are not suitable for culinary purposes.*)

Fill an ice cube tray halfway with water. Place one or two rose petals in each compartment and top with water. Freeze until frozen solid.



While it may sound like a catchy slogan to say that **Saxtons River Distillery** combines old-world heritage with the flavor of Vermont, it's actually the truth. Owner Christian Stromberg's family fled czarist-controlled Lithuania in 1906 and settled in Vermont. Fast-forward a couple of generations, and after a career change, Stromberg built Saxtons River Distillery, in part by connecting with the family's history of crafting Krupnikas — a traditional Lithuanian honey liqueur.

Now best-known for its Sapling Maple Bourbon, Sapling Maple Liqueur, Snowdrop American Dry Gin, Perc Coffee Liqueur and Sapling Maple Rye, it's safe to say that Saxtons River knows how to distill Vermont into its offerings. It also knows how to include the best of Valentine's Day into one of its own cocktail recipes, including chocolate, cinnamon and a chocolate-covered strawberry. The recipe also leaves it up to you whether to use ice cubes or vanilla ice cream. However, we're not sure it's a difficult choice.

The Vermont Valentine

courtesy saxtonsdistillery.com

- 1½ ounces Sapling Maple Bourbon
- 1½ ounces Perc Coffee Liqueur
- 4 ounces milk
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- 1 ounce melted dark chocolate
- Dash of vanilla and cinnamon
- 5 ice cubes (or 1 cup of vanilla ice cream)

Combine all ingredients in a blender and whip until smooth. Garnish with whipped cream, shaved chocolate and a chocolate-covered strawberry.

Mention rye around Vermont and the topic will always return to the farm — **WhistlePig Farm**, producers of a renowned line of rye whiskeys.

The distillers at the Shoreham-based WhistlePig discovered a store of aged rye whiskey in Canada. Rather than let it see a less than noble end, they brought it back to Vermont and aged it in virgin American oak barrels before hand-bottling it. The result: a bold rye whiskey with allspice, orange peel, anise, oak, char and caramel on the nose, a sweet palate with hints of caramel and vanilla with a touch of mint — all leading to a long finish.

Since we've got a bit longer before the warmer temps arrive, why not stay home with your partner, stoke a fire and create your own sugar shack, featuring some of that bold 10-year rye?

This recipe also calls for a taste of WhistlePig's Barrel Aged Maple Syrup, which is crafted right on the 500-acre farm in Shoreham. The freshly-emptied rye barrels are perfect for aging the pure Vermont maple syrup, imparting notes of toffee and rye spice.

Sugar Shack

courtesy whistlepigwhiskey.com

- 2 ounces WhistlePig Rye Whiskey Aged 10 Years
- ¼ ounce WhistlePig Barrel Aged Maple Syrup
- ¾ ounces fresh lemon juice
- ½ ounce blackberry simple syrup
- ¼ ounce pimento dram or allspice dram
- 2 dashes maple bitters
- Star anise for garnish

Add all ingredients to a shaker. Add ice to the shaker and shake. Fill your favorite tiki mug with pearl ice. Strain into the mug, garnish with star anise and your favorite tropical adornments and enjoy.



#FEED THE WOLF

Lunazul® Tequila, Bardstovon, KY, 40% Alc./Vol. ©2020 LZ-10720ESS



100% AGAVE

VT Code #088018 Lunazul Tequila Blanco
#089468 Lunazul Tequila Reposado 750ml

IT TAKES A
VILLAGE TO RAISE
A GLASS.



WE ARE KILBEGGAN

DRINK SMART® Kilbeggan® Irish Whiskey 40-43% Alc./Vol. ©2020 Kilbeggan Distilling Import Company, Chicago, IL

VT CODE: 015719 | \$29.99

GRAINGER'S
Deluxe
ORGANIC VODKA



ALLEN'S[®]
Cold Brew

This winter, enjoy the bold flavors of Allen's Cold Brew Coffee Flavored Brandy combined with the smooth taste of Grainger's Deluxe Organic Vodka in this delicious cocktail.



TASTING
PANEL
90
POINTS



Cold Brew Martini

**1 ½ oz. Grainger's Deluxe
Organic Vodka**

1 oz. Cold Brew Coffee

½ oz. Allen's Cold Brew

½ oz. Crème de Cacao

Add ingredients to a shaker filled
with ice and shake until well-chilled.
Strain into a martini glass.

GRAINGER'S DELUXE
ORGANIC VODKA
ITEM #031132
REGULAR PRICE: \$14.99

ALLEN'S COLD BREW COFFEE
FLAVORED BRANDY
ITEM #056310
REGULAR PRICE: \$14.99
SALE PRICE: \$12.39

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY GRAINGER'S DELUXE
& ALLEN'S LTD. BOSTON, MA. ©2021.
PLEASE ENJOY RESPONSIBLY.

MIXOLOGY: BE MY VERMONT VALENTINE

Appalachian Gap Distillery produces a line of handcrafted spirits in its solar-powered Middlebury facility. From its Mythic Gin to Espresso Liqueur (Kaffekask coffee whiskey blended with espresso-strength cold brew and Belgian candi sugar), it's no secret that creativity is leading the distillers at AppGap. Take, for example, Papilio Agave-Maple Spirit — a marriage of the smokiness of Vermont dark maple syrup and imported blue agave nectar from Jalisco, Mexico. The result: a spirit with echoes of tequila and a subtle maple flavor.

It's the Ridgeline Vermont Whiskey that fits into this season, however. Aged in new American oak barrels and finished in port wine barrels, it has characteristics of both bourbon and Irish whiskeys.

And if you're doing Valentine's Day right, it could make sense to include this particular cocktail — featuring Appalachian Gap's Ridgeline Vermont Whiskey — in your plans.



The Folding Stroller

courtesy appalachiangap.com

- 2½ ounces Ridgeline Whiskey
- 1 teaspoon Sumptuous Syrup
- Red Cinnamon
- 8 dashes Angostura bitters

Combine all ingredients in a mixing glass with ice. Stir until ice cold. Strain straight up, and serve with a twist of lime.

RESOURCES

Appalachian Gap Distillery

88 Mainelli Road, Middlebury, VT
appalachiangap.com

Green Mountain Distillers

171 Whiskey Run, Morristown, VT
greendistillers.com

Saxtons River Distillery

155 Chickering Drive, Brattleboro, VT
saxtonsdistillery.com

Smugglers' Notch Distillery

5087 Route 15, Jeffersonville, VT
smugglersnotchdistillery.com

WhistlePig

2139 Quiet Valley, Shoreham, VT
whistlepigwhiskey.com

Wild Hart Distillery

26 Sage Court, Shelburne, VT
wildhartdistillery.com

NOT ALL WHISKEY IS BOURBON. NOT ALL BOURBON IS BELLE MEADE.

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL

San Francisco World Spirits Competition, 2015

Please enjoy responsibly. Belle Meade Straight Bourbon Whiskey 45.2% alc/vol (90.4 proof) © 2021 Nelson's Green Brier Distillery, Nashville, TN | END-0TH19002

100 PROOF RITTENHOUSE® STRAIGHT RYE WHISKY

Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whisky has a storied past with a heritage that commemorates Philadelphia's famous Rittenhouse Square. Bottled-in-Bond, today's Rittenhouse carries the distinct, spicy flavor that is long associated with the brand.

<p>2019 WSWA Spirits Tasting Best Rye Whiskey</p>	<p>2019 WSWA Spirits Tasting Double Gold</p>	<p>2020 Ultimate Spirits Challenge 93 Rating</p>
---	--	--

VT Code #027016

Rittenhouse® Straight Rye Whisky. Bardstown, KY 50% Alc./Vol. ©2021