



Public Relations, Marketing & Government Affairs

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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The Lavish Booze and Amazing Stories Inside NYC's Rare Spirits Salon

As the finishing touch to the New York Palace's \$140M refurb in 2014, the landmark hotel unveiled **Rarities**, a decadent 25-seat salon devoted to rare spirits and wines. Inside the original 19th-century shell of the Villard Mansion is one of the world's most precious collections, elegantly displayed in illuminated glass alongside period-inspired furniture, antique chandeliers, and an original stained glass-window. Wine & Beverage Director Justin Lorenz, who sources the bottles from auctions and estates around the world, shows us a few of his most special finds. Fair warning: a tumbler can top out at a couple thousand bucks.



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Nolet's Reserve Gin

“This is arguably the world’s finest gin. Carolus Nolet Sr. spent over four decades developing the recipe, whose botanicals include Saffron (one of the world’s most expensive spices) and lemon verbena. It’s produced in tiny copper stills and released in very limited quantities: the 2010 total production was 498 bottles. And the cap is a replica of a Bentley gearshift—how else to top a gin this good?” **Price: \$105/dram**



Macallan 60-year

“Macallan has long been a favorite of scotch drinkers the world over, and this is the best scotch the distillery has ever made—hands down. They’ve never produced an older bottle and they didn’t make much of it; of 400 total bottles, only 72 are in the U.S.” **Price: \$2,835/dram**



Fladgate “Scion” Port

“This is perhaps the most important and oldest port releases in the last few decades. The distinguished Douro family owned this cask-aged tawny port made in the mid 19th century (before phylloxera devastated the vineyard in the 1860’s, around the time of the Crimean War). The wine was then passed down through several generations before being discovered by Taylor Fladgate, after the death of the last direct descendant. It [encompasses] fifteen decades of maturation in oak casks, delivered in flawless condition.” **Price: \$485/glass**



Ardbeg 1974

“From the island of Islay, Ardbeg is one of the smokiest of all scotch whiskeys. The 1974 is a renowned vintage for the distillery—one of its oldest and rarest offerings anywhere in the world. This particular scotch, because of its age, has the distinction of being one of the only bottlings left from when the distillery did its own floor malting. (Ardbeg was mothballed in 1981 then re-opened after being purchased by Glemmorangie in 1997).” **Price: \$1,285/dram**



Hannisville Rye Whisky, distilled in 1912

"Rye has made a real comeback in recent years and is giving bourbon a run for its money. A dram of this one is a true American whiskey experience. Established in 1863 in Baltimore, the Hannis Distilling company became one the most significant in the U.S. After relocating to West Virginia, the distillery made this pre-prohibition rye. Served from a massive demijohn (customers would have the giant bottle refilled at the distillery), this is probably the best American whiskey I've ever tasted." **Price: \$190/dram**



Black Tot Rum, British Royal Navy "Last Consignment"

"According to the British Royal Navy's records, this rum had been imported from the West Indies since 1784 and rationed to its sailors. After the 'last consignment' in 1970, the remaining stock was filled into wicker-clad stone flagons and only brought out for major state events or Royal weddings. Bottled directly from these flagons, this rum is a truly unique and rare piece of history." **\$150/dram**



1985 Domaine de la Romanée Conti, Romanée Conti Grnad Cru, Burgundy

"Lalou Bize-Leroy and Aubert de Villaine's estate in the French village of Vosne Romanee is the most famous of all the great houses of Burgundy. Producing wine exclusively from Grand Cru vineyards, these are the most highly sought-after, highly regarded wines that the region has to offer. Only 500 of the 6,000 cases produced annually carry the vineyard designation Romanée-Conti. The 1985 is a fabled vintage, drinking beautifully right now, and with many years of grace ahead of it. There just aren't enough of these bottles left in the world." **Price: \$27,000**



1900 Monongahela Rye

"At the turn of the 19th century, Pennsylvanian Monongahela River communities boomed with distilleries. Farmers started turning their rye into whiskey because they could put it into two barrels, which could be carried by one horse as opposed to the several horses needed for the raw material. Whiskey was used for everything back then—there was always some sort of libation served at events, usually made with Monongahela Rye. It was famous: Stories of the whiskey reaching Europe have popped up here and there, and Herman Melville even alluded to it in his masterpiece *Moby Dick*.



The last distillery making Monongahela rye closed in the 1980s, although none matched the purity of the original style being produced in 1900. This is a piece of history that our earliest Presidents would have enjoyed." **Price: \$375/dram**



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