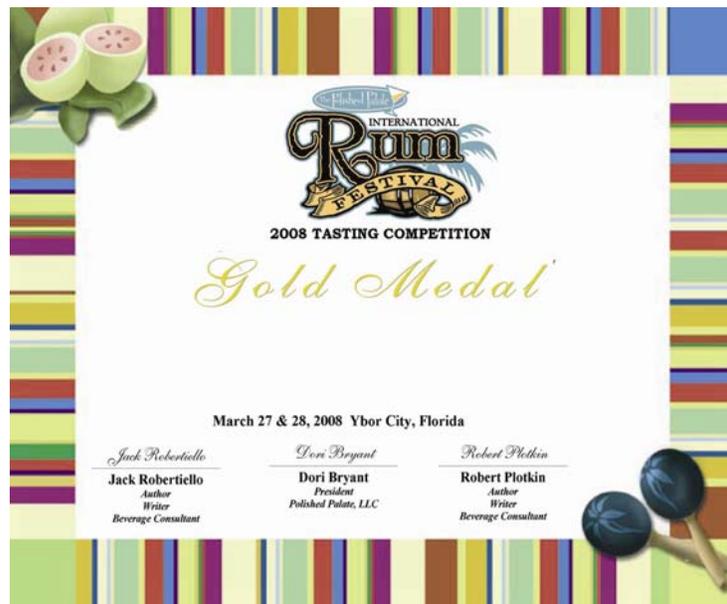




2008

TASTING NOTES
GOLD MEDAL WINNERS



2008 LIST OF JUDGES

50 Sugar Cane-based Spirits won Gold Medals at the 2008 Rum Competition (listed below are also the Best of Category winners)

Pisco & Grappa were judged; both won Gold Medals

In Alphabetical Sequence
**** Also Best of Category**



****BARCELO (RON) IMPERIAL RUM**
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM AGED TO 8 YEARS
Blend Wine & Spirits

Notes: Beautiful classic amber; reticent aromas with delicate floral nuances (dried roses), as well as caramel, vanilla, cinnamon, lineament; date bread, mace; Smooth flavors of tropical fruitiness, with sugar & nuts; Hint of chocolate, vanilla; Subtle, complex, multilayered; Nuttiness lingers with some Turkish candy and black tea; Expansive warm spicy; a classic.



BEIJA VIRGIN CANE CACHACA
Beija Corp

Notes: Intense expression of fruit & cane, with aromas of apricots, corn, hay, grass & papaya; nicely balanced flavors of fruit & spice, some soot, smoke, sugar & grass; very nice; finishes light and lemon-peppery.



BELEZA PURA CACHACA **DANA IMPORTERS**

Notes: Aromas of tropical fruits and earthiness; subtle and complex, with notes of lemon balm, citrus and pear; flavors of fresh Caribbean fruits with nice hint of grassy sweetness; whisper smooth; very nice spiciness in a persistent finish.



BLANCO AGUARDIENTE **Dana Importers**

Notes: Strong aromas of licorice and anise; flavors of black pepper, anise and fennel seed; pleasant and spicy on the tongue. Pleasant, spicy on the tongue.



BOTRAN (RON) GOLD

Dana Importers

Notes: Pale gold hued rum, with delicate aromas of chamomile, vanilla, and tropical fruits; flavors of dried ginger spices and hazelnuts; light-bodied and distinctive; a good lengthy finish, polished like a cognac; subtle and elegant.



CARUPANO (RON) ANEJO ORO REAL

Macondo Imports

Notes: Nice amber color glistens; hints of orange, vanilla & toffee; big, fruity, and promising; wonderful flavors of caramel, almonds and butterscotch; nice balance between sugar cane and oak; smooth and satiny; refreshing citrus finish.



CLEMENT CREOLE SHRUBB

Clement USA

Notes: Lovely aromas of mace, sweet oranges, cedar and cane; rich orange flavors, clean, lean and lovely; smooth, long and lovely orange finish.



CLEMENT X.O. Clement USA

Notes: Beautiful brassy amber; delicate aromas of spice and dried pear, with robust notes of nut candy, mango, banana and vanilla; well-balanced and rich with a cognac character, spicy, creamy and full-bodied; long, lingering finish, full and a bit smoky; Supple, silky, rich.



CRUZAN COCONUT Absolut Spirits Inc.

Notes: Lush aroma of tropical fruit and coconut; Screams of coconut flavor; dry, evolves to coconut and chocolate candy bar; Wonderful length.



CRUZAN MANGO
Absolut Spirits Inc.

Notes: Mango and tutti frutti aromas, with hint of lemon and ginger; tastes of sweet, rich mangoes; smooth and rich mango finish.



CUCA FRESCA CACHACA
Cuca Fresca Exports

Notes: Lush aromas of a pear orchard with ample spice & slight peppery nuances; excellent flavors of Caribbean fruits, well-balanced and a bit dry; smooth, persistent finish; clean, light and elegant.



CUCA FRESCA GOLD CACHACA

Cuca Fresca Exports

Notes: Aromas of grass, flowers, ripening tree fruit, and some earthiness with a touch of smoke and spice; quite pleasant; flavors of nuts, cooked bananas, almonds, sandalwood and a touch of cognac; moderate pepper and lemony finish.



**DIPLOMATICO RESERVA EXCLUSIVA RUM GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM AGED 9-15 YEARS

Blend Wine & Spirits

Notes: A rich amber rum giving off glorious aromas of praline & marshmallow, vanilla, nutmeg, almonds, toffee, caramel; Tremendous range of flavors; Lots of sweetness, both molasses, honey and a subtle hint of white pepper; Rich crème brulee, raisins, dates, orange zest, cinnamon, mace WOW!. Lush and inviting with a long lingering caramel and spice finish.



J.M. V.S.O.P. RHUM

-TIE

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY AGED RHUM

Clement USA

Notes: Eye appealing brassy amber hue; a burst of aromas - praline, dried apricots, toffee, almonds, coffee beans and a bit of woodiness and leather; tastes of spice, wood, nuts & dark chocolate; complex, big and spicy with a bold cognac character; velvety and lush

with a long satisfying with crisp chocolate aftertaste and a touch of licorice at end.



KANNIA CRISTAL RUM
Macondo Imports

Notes: Distinctive fruity aromatics of sweet grass; taste of tropical fruit – especially banana, guava and lime; well-balanced with hints of sweetness, cane, spice, and anise; charming; a lingering, pleasant, complex finish.



KHUKRI RUM
Liquid Treasure Imports

Notes: Deep amber; strong nose of coconut, vanilla and molasses; tastes buttery and toffee-like; fruity and spicy; black strap dominates a clean finish.



LEBLON CACHACA

Leblon

Notes: Lush tropical fruit aromas with chili pepper and licorice; pleasant, smooth and balanced; flavors of tropical fruit and intense cane expression; nice balance of fruit and spice, with a touch of smoke and lemonade; good acid/sugar balance; brassy, lemony and very good.



Note: Available soon in US

****MADRAS DARBOUSSIER HORS D'AGE RHUM
-TIE-**

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY AGED RHUM

Charles IMEX LLC

Notes: Beautiful brassy amber color; a mix of sweet intense aromas - orange marmalade, cocoa, coconut, banana, nutmeg, coconut and toast; on the palate, rich up front with mace, anise, cocoa toffee, hazelnut, and brown sugar yield to a more drying fruitiness; many-layered; finishes long, complex and delicious; one to savor.



MADRAS LIME JUICE FLAVORED RHUM

[Charles IMEX LLC](#)

Notes: Well-balanced aromas of citrus, anise and rosemary; pleasant lime and lemon flavors with thyme; a smooth limoncello-like finish.



MADRAS MANDARINE LIQUEUR

[Charles IMEX LLC](#)

Notes: Pretty perfume of oranges and lemons; tastes like candied orange peel; smooth, sweet and very pleasant.



Note: Photo is of assorted Madras Flavors; Available soon in the US

****MADRAS (ORANGE) SHRUBB FLAVORED RHUM
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, FLAVORED RHUM
[Charles IMEX LLC](#)**

Notes: Beautiful brassy orange shine in the glass; smells like cognac-soaked tangerines; notes of caramel and vanilla, or baked orange cake; good follow through to taste; gorgeous, spicy, zippy, orangy; lush and smooth; an elegant drink.



**MADRAS PASSION FRUIT FLAVORED RHUM
[Charles IMEX LLC](#)**

Notes: Very distinctive passion fruit aromas – like Orange Crush & mangoes; an explosion of real passion fruit taste; lingering fruit finish, very pleasant; excellent!



****MADRAS PRUNE LIQUEUR
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RHUM LIQUEUR
[Charles IMEX LLC](#)**

Notes: Brilliant hue, with a nose full of figs and prunes, black tea and spiced fruit-candy; sweet and pleasant mouthful of dates, prunes, and date cake; clean, pure finish with good acid. Solid, & well done.



MALIBU MANGO
Pernod-Ricard USA

Notes: Intense mango aromas; clean, but not too sweet; flavors of spice, pineapple and mango; tropical and smooth.



Note: Product not available in US as of April 2008

****MILLONARIO (RON) SOLERA YEAR Old RESERVA
ESPECIAL RUM**

-TIE-

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY RUMS AGED + 15 YEARS

Rossi & Rossi

Notes: Lively amber hue; aromas of sherry, caramel and nutmeg; honeycomb, vanilla, taffy, and honeysuckle; tastes of raisins and dates with molasses; burnt sugar and maple syrup; Well balanced, deliciously rich and sweet, with notes of mace, nutmeg and tobacco; great balance and oiliness on the finish; Moderate length.



CACHAÇA
MOLECA[®]
DOUBLE DISTILLED

MOLECA DOUBLE DISTILLED CACHACA

Leading Edge Brands

Notes: Smoke, licorice and slightly floral aromas; spicy & fruity tasting, with some complexity – licorice, citrus, woody, spearmint, sugar and cocoa; brief but pleasant finish.



MOMBACHO 8 YO

F & G Premium Worldwide Beverage

Not available in US as of April '08

Notes: Rich copper-colored rum offers notes of orange oil, burnt sugar and beeswax; very tropical bouquet overall – fruity, spicy and complex; tastes of orange, caramel, sweet oak, vanilla, black tea and dates; lingering finish, very pleasant, dry, and delicious.



MOMBACHO 19 YO
F & G Premium Worldwide Beverage

Not available in US as of April '08

Notes: A Madiera red colored rum, it opens with aromas of cola, molasses, and coffee beans, some leather, fruit cake and figs; tastes much the same, with notes of chocolate, toffee, cocoa, cinnamon and some citrus; rich and intense; fine finish of burnt sugar and citrus. Excellent.



****MONTECRISTO SPICED RUM**
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, SPICED RUM
Sidebar Spirits

Notes: Tropical spices – clove, nutmeg and allspice especially, burst from the glass, mixed with notes of sherry and of course rum; tastes buttery and rich, like spice cake with walnuts; beautiful balance between spices and rum; nice dry length.



****MOUNT GAY ECLIPSE SILVER
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, WHITE RUM**
[Remy Cointreau USA](#)

Notes: Aroma reminiscent of a fresh minty breeze, well-balanced with a hint of minerals; a lean, mild sweetness, with a good aftertaste of cane and fruit; a long smooth, balanced finish.



OLD NEW ORLEANS CRYSTAL RUM
[Celebration Distillation](#)

Notes: Caramel and almost floral aromas; a balanced, smooth, pleasant, and sweet confection, with notes of caramel, and molasses-sugar babies; very smooth, delicious and balanced.



ONE BARREL RUM
HAP Inc

Notes: Bright amber color; intensely nutty aromas with ginger, citrus, vanilla, and cinnamon scent; very nutty flavors with bitter almond leading to praline & butterscotch; nuttiness fades to dry spices (ginger, mustard); lingering sweet merges with slight peppery-oaky finish.



**** PUSSEY'S STANDARD RUM**
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, OVERPROOF RUM
Pusser's

Notes: Aromas of oranges, Meyer lemon, lime, raisins and vanilla with a hint of Turkish candy; warm spice on entry, with subtle hints of tropical spices, ripe and dried fruit, and hints of leather; very well balanced on the tongue; spice and fruit lingers.



****PYRAT XO RESERVE RUM**

-TIE-

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM AGED 9-15 YEARS

Patron Spirits

Notes: Classic amber hue; explosive aromas of Christmas pudding and fruitcake, with chocolate covered oranges and vanilla bean; bold mix of bananas, cooked dates, figs, raisins and orange zest; Intense flavors of orange and chocolate with hints of licorice and tropical spices; smooth, rich, citrusy, with aged cognac complexity; Licorice and hints of chocolate on the moderately long finish; concludes with tangerine peel, leather and maple sugar; Distinctive



****SANTA TERESA ARAKU RON Y COFFEE LIQUEUR**

-TIE-

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM LIQUEURS

Santa Teresa

Notes: Lovely black coffee appearance; smells like freshly roasted coffee; a great coffee & sugar flavor with notes of caramel; a pleasantly dry finish rounds off the coffee experience.



****SANTA TERESA RUM ORANGE LIQUEUR**
-TIE-
GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM LIQUEURS
Santa Teresa

Judging Notes: There's a spicy rum aroma at the opening, with orange zest, almond and vanilla emerging. On the palate, it's all sweet, rich, full-bodied orange, with a touch of bitter rind; a sweet and moderately long lasting finish with some cinnamon and nutmeg. A charming orange liqueur.



SANTA TERESA SELECTO
Santa Teresa

Notes: Classic amber color; smells of marzipan, Caribbean fruits, butter and a hint of smoke; spicy, nutty flavors – cinnamon and caramel; good length of spice, cocoa lips and lemony tartness.



SANTA TERESA 1796

Santa Teresa

Notes: Classic amber color with subtle aromas of nutmeg, cinnamon, beeswax, lemon polish and black tea; tastes of chocolate, honey, vanilla, coffee, cocoa and nuts; dry, light and balanced; excellent length and finish.



TEMPTRYST APPLEWOOD AGED

Photo is of Temptryst Lemon Wood Rum

Au Natural Spirits

Notes: Aromas of butterscotch and toffee; very pleasant; smooth-and balanced, spicy marzipan; flavors of burnt sugar, caramel, cocoa, and hazelnut; dry and spicy; some dried stone fruit in finish; rich, complex and slightly sweet; clean, refreshing and snappy.



TEMPTRYST LEMON WOOD

Au Natural Spirits

Notes: Golden hued; lots of orange with candied ginger and maple syrup; tastes of ginger candy, nicely balanced and consistent; intensely spiced; excellent length.



TEMPTRYST HICKORY AGED

Photo is of Temptryst Lemon Wood Rum

Au Natural Spirits

Notes: Beautiful gold and brass tones shine; aromas of hazelnut, almonds, oranges and smoke; flavors of vanilla, burnt sugar, caramel, cedar, leather and tar; warm and spicy dry smoke; spicy, well-balanced; good clean finish, with light smoky notes.



**TEMPTRYST RESERVE RUM

Photo is of Temptryst Lemon Wood Rum

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, DARK RUM

Au Natural Spirits

Judging Notes: Gorgeous deep amber color; a clean and pleasant nose of orange oil and spices; tastes of candied orange, with clove, allspice, vanilla and slightly sweet fruit cake; finishes with notes of allspice and Christmas pudding, spicy, long and pleasant.



TEMPTRYST SUGAR CANE MATURED

Photo is of Temptryst Lemon Wood Rum

Au Natural Spirits

Notes: Strong aromas of molasses and grassy sugar cane; tastes of fresh dates, honey, cinnamon and overripe fruit; Good length with floral hint and sweet spices.



Golden Sun

TOMMY BAHAMA GOLDEN SUN

Sidney Frank Importing Company

Notes: The bright gold offers aromas of ginger, white pepper and toffee and a nice balance of sweetness and spice; a terrific length and outstanding finish.



VIZCAYA VXOP CASK 21

Imex Marketing

Notes: Light amber; an explosion of spice from the glass (nutmeg, cinnamon) with baked apple and nuts; spicy tarte tatin, with butter, toffee, and vanilla; long and flavorful.



YPIÓCA LIME CACHACA

Ypióca Agroindustrial LTDA

Notes: Plenty of lime and pear aromas; pleasant taste of citrus and grassy cane; smooth and easy with a light limey finish.



Note: Not available in US as of 4/2008

****YPIÓCA RED FRUIT CACHACA**

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, FLAVORED CACHACA

Ypióca Agroindustrial LTDA

Judging Notes: Powerful nose of cherry and raspberry; a lean and pretty raspberry mouthful; finishes clean.



ZACAPA (RON) 15 RUM
DIAGEO

Notes: Dusky amber color, with aromas of maple sugar, honey, pecans, and chocolate; subtle, complex, multilayered; subtle flavors of chocolate, caramel, vanilla and spice; tea cake, honey, and lemon; great length and excellent finish; long and lovely.



****ZACAPA (RON) 23 RUM**
-TIE-

GOLD & BEST OF CATEGORY, RUM AGED +15 YEARS
DIAGEO

Notes: Beautiful amber color; smells of orange oil, crushed nuts & sweet spices like nutmeg & cinnamon; there's a subtle citrus, vanilla bean, and roasted almond flavor, well balanced and full bodied, with a creamy richness; excellent, lingering finish



ZAYA GRAN RESERVA

Infinium Spirits

Notes: Deep dark burnished walnut colored rum; aromas of black pepper, cinnamon, sugar & nutmeg; clean and sweet; rich, robust flavors of tropical fruits and spiced syrup; an explosion of complex flavors, marvelous and dreamy; subtle coconut finish with mellow aftertaste.

PISCO & GRAPPA



EMPIRE T & W GRAPPA

Empire Winery & Distillery

Notes: Pretty floral and fruit aromas; crisp and inviting; floral flavors with licorice and citrus, tart and dry; floral flavors linger into finish with dried pear at the end; great elegant finish.



OCUCAJE PISCO

Dana Importers

Notes: Nose of licorice and black pepper, touch of hazelnut and mineral spirits; dry and generous; flavors of tropical spices, grapes & herbs; smooth, lingering flavors of lime and anise on the finish; crisp and clean.