

# J. RIEGER & CO.

### **'8 Bucket-List Drinks Spots Around the World'**

- Wine Enthusiast 2023

'Rieger & Co. makes a whiskey like no other. A symbol of ingenuity, authenticity, and quality in spirit distillation.' -Drinkmemag

# 'Outstanding Bar Program'

- 2017 James Beard Nomination for Ryan Maybee's speakeasy bar, Manifesto

## Tom Nichol, longtime master distiller of Tanqueray, makes Rieger's Gin!

Year Founded: 1887

**Region: Kansas City** 

**Owners:** Andy Rieger and Ryan

Maybee

<u>Fun Fact:</u> J. Rieger & Co. was the largest mail-order whiskey house in the United States prior to the onset of federal prohibition in 1920.

Another fun fact: Around 1900, while Jacob's son and savvy business man, Alexander, took his turn running the family business, the company offered over 100 unique products ranging from whiskeys, to gins, to rums, to stomach bitters, and even one product just named "alcohol" which we imagine was not for the faint of heart.

We planted our flag in KC in 1887, only to meet an early demise in 1919 with the onset of the 18th Amendment and Federal Prohibition. 95 years later, two ambitious young KC guys refused to let Prohibition be the final fate for J. Rieger & Co. Jacob Rieger immigrated to America from Goritz, Austria/Hungary in 1877 with his wife Mary, son Alexander, and daughter Sallie. When he arrived in America, Jacob's last name was actually Rizor, but like a lot of immigrants during that time, his last name was changed. After initially settling in Cincinnati, Jacob moved to Kansas City in the early 1880s, where he opened a grocery store. By 1887, Jacob was onto his newest business venture: making booze. Jacob founded J. Rieger & Co. at 1529 Genesee Street in Kansas City's West Bottoms neighborhood, directly across from the Livestock Exchange Building. It wasn't until April 2010, 90 years after the onset



of Prohibition, that the idea for bringing back the historic distillery was dreamed up by Ryan Maybee, a Kansas City bartender who opened his bar Manifesto in the basement

of the Rieger Hotel building the year prior. Fascinated by the history of the building, Ryan discovered its connection to the historic J. Rieger & Co. distillery and from that point, was dead set on ensuring it was resurrected. In 2012 Andy Rieger, Jacob Rieger's great-great-great grandson (and only living direct descendent at the time), and Ryan Maybee set out to resurrect this historic brand. Together they formed a bond based on their shared vision of re-establishing not only Andy's family legacy, but also reviving the distilling industry in Kansas City. The distillery offers daily tours, multiple bars, rentable space for private events, a 3,000 square foot historical exhibit, gift shop, and did we mention they have a slide? Because they have a slide!





#### **Vodka**

Our midwestern premium vodka is 100% wheat based and conveys a clean and smooth flavor, as well as a full body and rich texture. Vodka is a modern day J. Rieger & Co. creation as the original distillery never produced vodka. Vodka was not a product widely consumed in the United States until the 1950s, about 30 years after we shut our doors due to Prohibition. We start with the highest quality Wheat neutral grain spirit. While corn is the most common base for American made Vodka, and potato or even rye is not uncommon, wheat gives us the cleanest flavor. Head Distiller, Nathan Perry, gives the wheat NGS a final distillation in a large copper pot still. This allows us to round out the texture of the spirit while preserving its naturally soft, sweet flavor. A perfect base for classic cocktails such as the Moscow Mule or Vodka Martini, while also serving as a blank canvas for new creative cocktails.

**91 Points** – Wine Enthusiast **90 Points** – Tastings.com



#### Gin

#### 'Top 100 Spirits' - 91 Points - Wine Enthusiast 2019

Midwestern Dry Gin is inspired by the traditional London Dry Gins that famously emphasize the spicy and aromatic character of mature Juniper berries. One of our partners in the distillery introduced us to his friend Tom Nichol in 2015. When we were first connected to Tom, he was getting ready to retire from being the Master Distiller of Tanqueray. Our Midwestern Dry Gin is the culmination of Tom's life's work. Tom said that if he was going to make the best gin in America, we needed to use the best botanicals in the world. So that's what we did. Beginning with the cleanest 100% Wheat NGS available, we then source our five botanicals (juniper berries, coriander seed, angelica root, licorice root powder, and dried orange peel) from the same source that supplies the finest gin distilleries in the world. We utilize our 120-gallon 'Wee Still' solely for gin distillation. Over a 5-hour distillation head distiller, Nathan, monitors the output closely and makes constant adjustments to ensure that each batch is just as fantastic as the previous.

**Double Gold** - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2023 **95 Points** - Wine Enthusiast **95 Points** – Tastings.com



#### Kansas City Whiskey

Rieger & Co. Kansas City Whiskey pays tribute to our historic brand through resurrecting the use of adding Sherry to American whiskey, a common practice known as "rectification" in the late 1800s, but that was lost after Prohibition. This whiskey is a blend of straight bourbon whiskey, light corn whiskey, and straight rye whiskey, all aged at least 4 years, as well as a small amount of 15-year-old Oloroso Sherry from the Williams & Humbert Bodega in Jerez. Bottled at 92 proof. The flavor of sweet corn whiskey is followed up with a touch of sweetness from the Sherry featuring dried fruits, almonds, and bitter chocolate. The finish provides a heavy dose of robust spiciness from the rye. At 92 proof the alcohol is able to balance out the slight sweetness from the Sherry and makes the whiskey very balanced. It's beautiful when served neat or on the rocks, but also works well in classic Bourbon - or Rye - based cocktails such as the Horsefeather, Manhattan, and Old Fashioned.

**Best American Whiskey** - American Spirits Council of Tasters (ASCOT Awards) 2023 **Gold** - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2023 **92 Points** - Ultimate Spirits Challenge 2023





#### Straight Bourbon

We start with the same mashbill as our bottled in bond bourbon – 56% corn, 30% rye, 14% malted barley. Then we employ an innovative sweet mash fermentation process to create the smoothest, most flavorful whiskey. Next up is a unique two-step distillation process that leverages both our pot still and our column still, imparting the ultimate mouthfeel and texture to this spirit, heightening the richness and depth of flavor. Finally, we barrel age it for at least four years of aging in our Kansas City rickhouse for even more character and layering of flavors. Brimming with layers of flavor and complexity, showcasing aromas of candied citrus and baked bread. Rich flavors of orange marmalade, cracked pepper, and lightly toasted coconut are followed by a long finish with hints of mild tobacco and a toffee-like sweetness.



#### Straight Rye

Crafted with 96% rye and 4% malted barley for a bold, unmistakable character. Two-step distillation - A unique process using both pot and column stills to enhance richness and depth of flavor. Aged a minimum of four years in 53-gallon white American oak barrels in our Kansas City rickhouse, located alongside active railroad tracks. Non chill filtered preserving a velvety texture and full flavor experience.

The nose is bright and floral, with notes of cherry blossom, eucalyptus, sandalwood, and subtle earthy hints of hay and dried leaves. The creamy, rich palate offers flavors of cherry cola, spearmint, and cocoa nibs, leading to a savory profile of salted sunflower seeds, baking chocolate, sea salt, and spicy ginger. The long, complex finish has no noticeable burn despite the 45% ABV.

#### J. Rieger & Co. Caffè Amaro



This bittersweet coffee-based amaro offers a mix of almond, chocolate, and coffee, finishing with cardamom and bitter orange peel complexity. Made with coffee from Kansas City roaster Thou Mayest, and briefly barrel aged. We steep a blend of botanicals in a corn spirit until the flavors are exactly right for our base. We then make a gigantic batch of coffee that we will use to blend into our base. We take the amaro spirit and coffee blend and put it into used whiskey barrels that have been specially prepared for this process which allows the amaro to meld together perfectly. The addition of cane syrup prior to bottling adds just the right amount of sweetness to balance out the bitter botanical base. The flavor brings out the clean mint flavors with a hint of pine. With a well-balanced rich sweetness that is balanced with an earthy bitterness it is ideal for sipping neat.

<u>Botanicals</u>: Juniper berries, cardamom, orange peel, star anise, spearmint leaves, gentian, vanilla beans.

Sweetener: Evaporated cane syrup

Coffee Bean: Sumatra

<u>Caffeine Info:</u> Each 750ml bottle contains approximately 467mg of caffeine, or the equivalent of less than 5 hot drip cups of coffee in the entire bottle. The point is, you'll feel the alcohol before the caffeine, but if you're hypersensitive to caffeine, this product may not be for you.

95 Points - Wine Enthusiast

92 Points - Ultimate Spirits Challenge 2023



#### J. Rieger & Co. Kansas City Bottled in Bond Straight Bourbon Whiskey



After six long years in 53-gallon American white oak barrels, the bourbon we created in 2016 and 2017 are finally ready. This batch of bourbon is bottled at 100 proof to meet the qualifiers to be designated as bottled in bond, the strictest category of American whiskey. The bottling marks the eighth year of our bourbon program, and the second bottling. With our rickhouse stocked with thousands of barrels, we look forward to bringing you Rieger's Bourbon for generations to come. For our bourbon, we selected a mash bill of 56% corn, 30% rye, and 14% malted barley to create a classic bourbon that gives noticeable characteristics from a higher-than-average proportion of rye and malted barley. Each batch was distilled in our 750-gallon copper pot still before being put into 53-gallon American white oak barrels. Aged in our Kansas City rickhouse for a full six years before bottling. Adhering to bottled in bond guidelines, we selected 17 barrels distilled in the fall of 2016 as well as 52 barrels distilled in the spring of 2017 for this season.

Aromas of tart fruits upfront - lemon oil, apple pie, clove, and hints of maple. Flavors on the pallet led by sweet fruit including dark cherry and plum. A very rich, elegant, and buttery texture with flavors of cigar smoke, cornbread, and cotton candy. The finish is loaded with complex flavors of honey-cinnamon, dark-roast coffee, vanilla, caramel, and sea salt. There's a rich, malty, lingering effect that is reminiscent of a stout beer.

**Double Gold** - The San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2023 **Gold** - American Spirits Council of Tasters (ASCOT Awards) 2023

#### J. Rieger & Co. 'Monogram' Whiskey Solera Reserve



Our Monogram Whiskey carries on a tradition of blending exceptional whiskeys dating back to when Jacob Rieger started our distillery in 1887. This very special and limited-edition Kansas City Whiskey sees an extended aging period in extremely rare oloroso sherry botas from the Williams & Humbert Solera Especial. The additional time spent in the solera adds depth, complexity, and beauty that you are unlikely to find in any other American whiskey.

This year's blend is comprised of straight bourbon, straight rye, and light corn whiskeys that have been aging in our solera since as far back as 2015. The 2023 Rieger's Monogram Whiskey is the first release of our "Kansas City Whiskey - Solera Reserve," which celebrates the deep, complex terroir of the legendary sherry botas and its effect on American whiskey. The solera method uses fractional blending to age the whiskey. It's a continual process of removing a portion of the whiskey from the barrel, then topping it off with another batch, over many years. This "never-ending barrel" approach creates a unique yet consistent mixture of ages. Having expanded our solera to ten casks between 50-100 years old adds layers of flavor and complexity to what is already a very special bottling. The palate is sweet and elegant, showcasing flavors of butter pecan, vanilla, and cream soda. The mid-palate is

loaded with fig, chocolate-covered cherry, and baking spice. There's a thick, creamy smokiness that's evenly distributed throughout. The sweet flavors of black walnut, vanilla, and allspice are reminiscent of Derby pie. The finish is lengthy and spicy, highlighted by the significant amount of rye in the blend.

The Blend: Rieger's Kansas City Whiskey blend of straight bourbon, straight rye, and light corn whiskey

Finish Time: Up to 48 months in oloroso sherry botas

<u>Finishing Barrels:</u> Ten 500-liter barrels from the Williams & Humbert Drysack 15-year Oloroso Especial, between 50-100 years in age