

# OLD & RARE



The distillery in 1982

**GERMAIN - ROBIN**  
MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SINCE 1982, CRAFT METHOD HAND-DISTILLATION  
ON AN ANTIQUE COGNAC STILL

## Germain-Robin comes of age.



Our cellars contain some 1400 barrels, equal to 60,000 cases. About 25% of this brandy was distilled between 1983 and 1998, thus over 15 years old.



- ☛ generations of craft-method distilling skills
- ☛ small antique pot-still (formerly used for cognac)
- ☛ innovative use of old European craft methods
- ☛ world-class premium wine grapes
- ☛ aging in air-dried Limousin oak
- ☛ descent to proof with filtered rainwater



In 1981, a chance encounter between Ansley Coale and Hubert Germain-Robin, whose family had produced cognac for some 200 years, led to the construction of the modest shed pictured on the front cover. Among our innovations was the decision to distill wines made from premium grape varietals, in preference to the thin acidic wines distilled in Cognac. We have been hand-distilling these wines for now 31 years. Our wines are vinified in bladder presses and controlled-temperature stainless steel tanks, using champagne yeasts. What we put into our still is the finest distillation material in current use anywhere.

Hubert distilled these wines using ancestral double-distillation cognac methods, craft hand methods passed from master to apprentice for generations. The stills are antiques, operated entirely by hand. Preserving these methods by putting them to use in the modern world was one of our fundamental goals,

We use ancestral methods in the cellar, aging in air-dried Limousin oak. The brandies are segregated by varietal, preserving the distinctive characteristics of the fine grape varietals from which they derive. Descent to bottling proof is by filtered rainwater.

## OLD & RARE BRANDIES



**Cask 17.** Cellarmaster Corley creates a blend from the best of our old brandies, 25-30 years old, then ages it for 12 months in a 9-liter cask. 12 bottles only. 45.5% ABV. SRP \$1200.

**GR/30.** Brandies from 30 years ago. Unfiltered. 42% ABV. SRP \$500.

**Barrel Blend 1994.** A custom blend bottled in 1994. It includes a wonderful Chenin Blanc from old-vine grapes, long since replanted. 40% ABV. 375ML / SRP \$65.

**Anno Domini.** Exquisite aged pinot noir. Three different wine magazines named it the best spirit in the world. Brilliant yet soft. Creamy sherry note from a palomino component. No longer produced. 40% ABV. SRP \$400. Sold out.

**Old Havana.** Originally blended in 1997. 5 barrels were revisited in 2008, then used to start a *solera*. Contains brandies more than 25 years old. "One of the world's great spirits" (MENS'S JOURNAL). 40% ABV. SRP \$120.

**Barrel 351.** 120 bottles from a single barrel of our finest distillate, a 1987 pinot noir from the Welch vineyard in Potter Valley, almost 27 years old. 44.9% ABV. SRP \$600.

**Augustin's Blend.** Assembled in 1990 on the occasion of the birth of Ansley Coale's son, followed by 22 years in a 50-liter cask. 60 bottles only. 42.7% ABV. SRP \$700.

**Apple XO.** We have distilled apple brandy since 1991. From the early distillations, a single barrel of older distillates, deep and very complex, with none of the heaviness that so often deadens French Calvados. 40.2% ABV. SRP \$90.

## SMALL BLENDS

We systematically tasted through all brandies distilled prior to 1997 and are carefully assembling unique blends, ones that will never be duplicated.



**Small Blend no. 1.** 220 bottles. Includes a 1990 pinot noir from the County's oldest planting and a rich 1983 French colombard, 28 years old. Unfiltered. 41.7% ABV. SRP \$295.

**Small Blend no. 2.** 76 cases. 1984 Gamay Beaujolais, 1989 Colombard, 1994 Pinot Noir. Unfiltered. 44.5% ABV. SRP \$300.

**Small Blend no. 3.** 74 cases. 1985 Gamay Beaujolais, 1996 Roederer Pinot Noir, two 1997 Colombards, plus 1996 Muscat, Riesling, & Viognier. ca 43% ABV. SRP \$285.

## SINGLE-BARREL RELEASES

Brandy from a specified varietal of premium wine grape, aged in a single barrel. Excellent grapes yield brandies with distinctive varietal character, worth drinking unblended.

An occasional barrel is spectacular: vintage, vineyard, good luck.

Single Barrel brandies are aged in older Limousin oak barrels (V for *vieux*, "old") and brought to bottling proof using filtered rainwater.

All of our single-barrel releases have received ★★★★★ from Pacult's SPIRIT JOURNAL.

**Single-Barrel V171 French Colombard.** 23 years old, beautifully soft. SRP \$180. 42.8% ABV

**Single Barrel V320 Riesling from 1998.** Lovely aromatics. SRP \$150. 41.6% ABV.

**Single-Barrel V217 Pinot Noir.** Roederer Estate grapes. Exceptional. 41.5% ABV. SRP \$150.

**Single-Barrel V139 Semillon.** Old-vine grapes. Full and rich, very deep. 41.6% ABV. SRP \$150.



“No cognac is as good as Germain-Robin” – DAN BERGER/LA TIMES



The Germain-Robin distillery, Eagle Rock Ranch, 1982.  
To the right is the ranch barn; behind it, a sheep-shearing shed.

Best on the planet – SPIRIT & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE ♦ The greatest in the world – ROB NALLEY/DEPARTURES MAGAZINE

World's best liquor – ROBB REPORT ♦ The best this country has ever offered – SPIRIT JOURNAL

Die Besten der Welt – VINOVERUM/SWITZERLAND ♦ Equal to the very best – NEW YORK TIMES

One of the world's top ten distillers – PAUL PACULT/DELTA SKY MAGAZINE ♦ Unmatched quality – CONNOISSEURS GUIDE

Some of the world's finest – ANTHONY DIAS BLUE/BON APPETIT ♦ The best made – WINE NEWS

Some of the world's best – MATT KRAMER/FAST COMPANY ♦ The best in the world – DALLAS MORNING NEWS

No cognac is as good as Germain-Robin – DAN BERGER/LA TIMES



**craft distillers®** pure, beautifully made spirits