

AUSTIN

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20 *Best Hill Country* WINERIES



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All within
two hours
of Austin

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

Stock your bar with these four local liquors.

BY MEGAN KIMBLE

Austin's distilled spirit boom is still going strong. While the whiskey wave has ebbed, locally made or bottled distillates—ranging from mezcal to vodka—are still flowing in the capital city. Here are a few of our favorite brands that have launched since 2018.



FROG POND DISTILLERY

This small-batch, family-owned distillery produces gin and vodka in pot stills. With his wife and son, owner Alan Lloyd—who also happens to be a professor of molecular biosciences at the University of Texas—formulated dozens of gin iterations before deciding on their signature botanical blend. Order a cocktail at the relaxed tasting room in Dripping Springs and settle onto the scenic patio. frogponddistillery.com

SUSTO MEZCAL

In Mexican folklore, the state of "susto" (fear or fright after a loss, accident, or natural disaster) can cause the separation of body and soul, which can be cured by *curanderos*, faith healers, or shamans—and a good long sip of mezcal. Susto Mezcal is made with 100 percent *espadin joven* agave and is produced and bottled in Oaxaca, Mexico. sustomezcal.com

FRANKLY ORGANIC VODKA

Texas' first organic vodka is distilled in Austin and made from organic sweet corn and organic fruits, roots, and botanicals. (They forgo GMOs and gluten, too.) Try the grapefruit vodka, made with Ruby Red grapefruit, apples, Ceylon cinnamon, lemon, maca root, and maple syrup. franklyvodka.com

GOODNIGHT LOVING VODKA

Gary Crowell, a co-founder of Deep Eddy Vodka, launched this new vodka that's two-parts craft and one-part nostalgia. The vodka is made with Texas artesian spring water, distilled six times, and contained in a stylishly '70s-chic bottle inspired by the classic bottles of his dad's liquor cart. goodnightlovingvodka.com

BOTTLE PHOTOS COURTESY BRANDS. BACKGROUNDS FROM ADOBE STOCK.