

# A SPIRITED



The Texas Distilled Spirits Association represents a community of individuals and companies passionate about handcrafted, local spirits. Bottling the best of the Lone Star State and bringing it to Texans and the world, member distilleries capture the unique flavor of the extraordinary place we call home, glass by glass. Many Texas distilleries offer tours and tastings, so plan a road trip for an in-depth look at the process behind the best locally made bourbons, whiskeys, vodkas, rums, gins and “moonshines.” From North Texas down to the Gulf Coast, each of these featured distilleries have a special something to share with passersby.

Story | KATHRYN HUNTER



# TOUR

# OF TEXAS



## RUM & BLUE AGAVE SPIRITS ON GALVESTON BAY

In the sleepy coastal town of San Leon, **Railean Distillery** produces a treasure trove of distinctive rums using Grade-A sugarcane molasses from the Gulf Coast. Railean also boasts the only blue agave spirits fully produced in Texas. Don't miss the distillery's special events on Sept. 19, International Talk Like a Pirate Day. [railean.com](http://railean.com)



## GRAIN-TO-GLASS SPIRITS IN NORTH TEXAS

With a focus on fresh, local, non-GMO ingredients, at **Ironroot Republic** in Denison everything from mashing to barrel aging is done on-site. Spirits include vodka, moonshine and gin, with a special release of bourbon and Texas grape brandy coming soon. Stop by the bar and lounge for a specialty cocktail, where even bitters and other ingredients are made from scratch, too. [ironrootrepublic.com](http://ironrootrepublic.com)



## DISTILLER'S DREAM IN WACO

Recipient of more than 40 national and international awards, **Balcones Distilling** is the realization of a dream to build and shape a new Texas tradition: genuine, unique, small-batch whiskey. Much of the distillery was built lovingly and to exact specifications by hand. Just up the street, a second distillery is scheduled to open at the end of the year. [balconesdistilling.com](http://balconesdistilling.com)







## URBAN BOURBON IN THE HEART OF HOUSTON

**Yellow Rose Distilling** showcases an award-winning array of bourbons and whiskeys at their distillery on Post Oak Drive, just north of Memorial Park. Made from 100 percent corn in a traditional pot still, the Yellow Rose Outlaw Bourbon has an especially sweet flavor. Visit the distillery store for exclusive reserve products and merchandise. [yellowrostedistilling.com](http://yellowrostedistilling.com)



## ONE-OF-A-KIND MOONSHINE IN THE HILL COUNTRY

This casual, small-town distillery in Comfort makes spirits with a true taste of Texas. **Hill Country Distillers'** signature "moonshines," which use no corn or grain, are fermented and distilled from prickly pear cactus and jalapeño. Hand-picked and hand-chopped, ingredients are fermented in a 100-gallon copper still that was made in Kentucky by original moonshiners. [hillcountrytxdistillers.com](http://hillcountrytxdistillers.com)







## BOURBON BY THE BARREL IN BLANCO COUNTY

**Garrison Brothers Distillery**—located in the small town of Hye, near Fredericksburg—is the oldest legal whiskey distillery in the state. Small-batch bourbons are crafted from Texas ingredients, including organic winter wheat harvested on the ranch. Order a full barrel of the Single Barrel Bourbon from your local liquor store and you’ll receive a private invitation to select your own barrel (and bottle it, if desired) at the distillery. [garrisonbros.com](http://garrisonbros.com)



## WHISKEY WITH HISTORY IN FORT WORTH

Known for their Texas-grown ingredients and a unique, proprietary yeast strain, **Firestone & Robertson Distilling Co.** will take you back in time at their beautifully refurbished, 1920s-era warehouse building. Handmade bottle caps for their TX Blended Whiskey are each one of a kind and made from repurposed boot leather. [frdistilling.com](http://frdistilling.com)



## AUTHENTIC “BREWSTILLERY” IN SAN ANTONIO

**Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling** is the only “brewstillery” in the state, handcrafting both beer and bourbon. Some limited edition beers are specially aged in whiskey barrels, and the celebrated .36 Texas Bourbon is the oldest bourbon aged in Texas. Drop by for the once-a-quarter open house to celebrate the latest beer release with live music, food and, of course, good drinks. [drinkrangercreek.com](http://drinkrangercreek.com)



## NEIGHBORING SPIRITS

The rolling hills just west of Austin have more than beautiful scenery to offer: Dripping Springs Vodka, Deep Eddy Vodka and Revolution Spirits (specializing in gin) are all a stone’s throw from the small town of Dripping Springs. Tour and taste for a firsthand look at products made from local artesian water, featuring one-of-a-kind flavors and “revolutionary” distilling methods.