

## menu

## **BARKEEPING**

Clear the top shelf for California's most spirited offerings



In the Wix Ukiah-based Ansley Coale of Craft Distillers has launched Fluid Dynamics, bottles of pre-mixed cocktails using their Germain-Robin brandies and house absinthe. Stefan Matulich of Napa's Bounty Hunter store has a tip for making aged drinks: "Try old-fashioneds, or a gin in a Negroni. Most martini-style cocktails get overpowered by the spice from the oak." \$80; bountyhunterwine.com.





**MALT MASTER** In 1996, Lance Winters of **St. George Spirits** applied his brewing experience and sense of place—East Bay, not Islay—to small-lot whiskey. Lot 13's upcoming release will be his most sought-after yet. (If you can get your hands on last year's XXX edition, consider yourself blessed.) \$70; stgeorgespirits.com.

PASO ROBLES

## **Grape Expectations**



At their eponymous Paso Robles winery, Alex and Monica Villicana have discovered a way to make saignée—an often discarded byproduct of the winemaking process—

sustainable. For **Re:Find**, they've distilled theirs and runoff from nearby craft producers into two clean-finishing spirits: a neutral brandy (essentially a vodka); and a botanical blend (a gin) vapor-passed with Central Coast aromatics like juniper berry, coriander, orris root, citrus peels and lavender. \$35-\$38; refinddistillery.com.

## SAN FRANCISCO LOST AND FOUND

While bitter French aperitif Amer Picon is unavailable in the U.S., San Francisco's Torani family (same as the syrups) has your replica: **Torani Amer**, well-known in CA's Picon punch-drinking Basque communities and trending with Amaro-coveting bartenders. \$11; caskstore.com.



ST. GEORGE SPIRITS (2): BEN KRANTZ