



NZ **Spirits Awards** 2023

Catalogue of Results





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Contents

- Message from Distilled Spirits Aotearoa and Spirits New Zealand4

- Message from the Head Judges.....5

- 2023 Judging Panels6

- 2023 Medal Results.....7

- 2023 Summary of Entries16

- 2023 Summary of Medals17



Message from Distilled Spirits Aotearoa

The New Zealand Spirits Awards are back and better than ever, celebrating its fifth anniversary. With each passing year, the awards have become more renowned, showcasing New Zealand's exceptional spirits to the world. This year, a staggering 426 entries from 24 different countries were received, with 281 of them being products from New Zealand and 30 amazing judges from both New Zealand and Australia. The Awards not only offer international producers a chance to gain recognition in the local market but also provide an opportunity for New Zealand products to stand up whilst pitched against some of the world's best. As for consumers, the awards provide a sense of comfort in knowing that their beloved spirits have received the recognition they deserve and a guide to the ever growing spirit categories to be confident of quality.



Richard Wilson

Chairperson
Distilled Spirits Aotearoa (NZ) Inc



Robert Brewer

Chief Executive
Spirits New Zealand Inc



Message From the Head Judges

It was a privilege to gather as this year's judges for the NZ Spirit Awards 2023. We welcomed back guest judges from Australia (including some new faces!) and continued to develop newer judges who will continue to bring depth to the industry in years to come. There are two vital components to the task - first bringing a sense of integrity and commitment to sensory assessment, category awareness and continual professional development and the second being a genuine passion for the ongoing development of Aotearoa New Zealand's spirits industry. This year it was exciting to see growth in the rum category, continued expansion in the New Zealand Whisky category and a more diverse selection of unique liqueurs and spirits than ever before. We continue to do our best to showcase the very best and celebrate the growth this year. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to the judges who gave their time and skill.

Alex, Cameron, Tash, David, Nick, Joanne, Caroline, Charles



2023 Judging Panels

Dark Spirits Panel

Alex Ricketts The Last Word
HEAD JUDGE

Cameron Syme Limeburners & Giniversity
HEAD JUDGE

Natasha McGill Sola Fida Consulting
HEAD JUDGE

Mikey Ball Ballin Drinks

Alastair Walker Caretaker

Claire Filer HighGinx

Tim Russell-Jarvie Master Cask

Aroha Jakicevich Glengarry Wines

Soren Crabb 1919 Distilling

Colin Mairs Glengarry Wines & Waiheke Whisky

Jo James Begin Distilling T/A Juno Gin

Keith Tibble Eurovintage

Other Spirits

Charles Gillet The Last Word
HEAD JUDGE

Luke Dawkins Gin Gin

Sarah Tyler d:STIL Project

Maria Grau Rough Hands

Light Spirits Panel

David Hawk Parched
HEAD JUDGE

Nick Widley Cod & Lobster Brasserie
HEAD JUDGE

Joanne Hort Feast Lab, Massey University
HEAD JUDGE

Caroline Ashford The Gin Queen
HEAD JUDGE

Elizabeth Scott Reefton Distilling Co.

Kim Black Wine Edco

Marcel Thompson Still Magic

Scott O'Connor The Churchill

Fritz Kuckuck Rough Hands

Alex Van Saarloos Elemental Distillers Ltd

John Ridley Thirsty Camel

George Grbich Guide to New Zealand Gin

Richard Wilson Sandymount Kilns Distillery

John Saker Johnsaker.com

The judges are bound by a strict confidentiality agreement and are required to declare any conflict of interest in entries over which they deliberate, and to stand aside from judging any category where they have a conflict of interest.

2023 Medal Results



VARIETAL VODKA
CATEGORY SPONSOR

Vodka

Double Gold

Black Collar – Black Collar Chocolate Vodka
Good George Distilling – Bacon Vodka
National Distillers Company – Aquifer

Gold

Khortytza – Vodka Khortytza Platinum
Krupnik – Vodka Krupnik 40% 50ml
Zoa – Zoa Vodka

Silver

42Below – 42Below Vodka
Archie Rose – Native Botanical Vodka
Archie Rose – True Cut Vodka
Black Collar – Black Collar Vodka
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Vodka
Ciroc – Ciroc Vodka
Good George Distilling – Aotearoa Pure Vodka
Grey Goose – Grey Goose Vodka
Herrick Creek – Smokin' Right Rear Cinnamon Moonshine
House Of Suntory – Haku
Ketel One – Ketel One Vodka
Kj & Co – Alpine Vodka 70ml
Moskovskaya – Vodka Moskovskaya 40% 500ml
No8 Distillery – No8 Blue Stone Vodka
Smirnoff – Smirnoff Vodka
Titos – Titos
Waiheke Distilling Co – Horopito Spice
Waiheke Distilling Co – Kawakawa Summer
Zoa – Zoa Feijoa Vodka

Bronze

Good Bones Distilling – Good Bones Vodka

2023 Medal Results

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CRYER MALT

TRADITIONAL WHISKY
CATEGORY SPONSOR

WORLD WHISKY
CATEGORY SPONSOR

Whisky

Double Gold

Basil Hayden's – Basil Hayden's
Waiheke Whisky – Cantankerous

Gold

Aberlour – Aberlour A'Bunadh
Bruichladdich – Bruichladdich Classic Laddie
Divergence – Five
Divergence – Virgin French Oak
Highland Park – Highland Park 15
Jameson Irish Whiskey – Jameson Black Barrel
Jim Beam – Jim Beam Black
Laphroaig – Laphroaig 10Yo
Powers Irish Whiskey – Powers Gold Label
Talisker – Talisker 10 Year Old
Teeling – Teeling Blackpittsm Single Malt
Waiheke Whisky – Dyad Chardonnay
Waiheke Whisky – Seris 1
Waiheke Whisky – Sweetwater
Wemyss – Wemyss Peat Chimney Blended Malt

Silver

Aberlour – Aberlour 12 Year Old
Archie Rose – Single Paddock Whisky Harvest 2018
Bushmills – Bushmills 10Yo
Canadian Club – Canadian Club 1858
Chivas Regal – Chivas Extra 13 Year Old – American Rye Cask
Chivas Regal – Chivas Extra 13 Year Old – Sherry Cask
Fettercairn – Fettercairn 12 Year Old
Glendronach – Glendronach Portwood Nas

Good George Distilling – Aotearoa Premium Single Malt Whiskey
– Bourbon – Barrel No. 1

Good George Distilling – Aotearoa Premium Single Malt Whiskey
– Bourbon – Barrel No. 4

Hallertau – Hallertau Chocolate Malt Whisky

Hallertau – Hallertau Saison Whisky

High West – High West Bourbon

High West – High West Double Rye

Highland Park – Highland Park 12

House Of Suntory – The Chita

House Of Suntory – Toki

Jim Beam – Jim Beam

Johnnie Walker – Johnnie Walker Black

Johnnie Walker – Johnnie Walker Blue

Jura – Jura 10 Year Old

Jura – Jura 18 Year Old

Jura – Jura Red Wine

Jura – Jura Rum Cask

Legent – Legent

Maker's Mark – Maker's Mark

Naked Malt – Naked Malt

Overeem – Overeem Single Malt Sherry Cask Matured

Slane – Slane Irish Whiskey

Tamnavulin – Tamnavulin Double Cask

Tamnavulin – Tamnavulin Sherry Cask

Teeling – Teeling Single Grain

Teeling – Teeling Single Malt

The Glenlivet – The Glenlivet 12 Year Old

The Glenlivet – The Glenlivet 15 Year Old

The New Zealand Whisky Collection – South Island Single Malt

The New Zealand Whisky Collection – Oamaruvian Revolution

Thomson Whisky – Grain & Grape

2023 Medal Results

Whisky Results Continued

Silver (continued)

Thomson Whisky – Thomson Manuka Smoke Single Malt Whisky

Thomson Whisky – Thomson Smokers Delight Single Malt Whisky

Thomson Whisky – Thomson South Island Peat Single Malt Whisky

Thomson Whisky – Thomson Whisky Zeitgeist 2nd Edition Single Cask Single Malt

Wemyss – Wemyss Velvet Fig Blended Malt

Divergence – Port Wood

Johnnie Walker – Johnnie Walker Gold

The Glenlivet – The Glenlivet Carribbean Reserve

The Whistler – Whiskey Irish Double Oaked The Whistler 40% Bottle 700ml

Waiheke Whisky – Dyad Peat + Port

Bronze

Archie Rose – Rye Malt Whisky

Archie Rose – Single Malt Whisky

Canadian Club – Canadian Club 12Yo

Chivas Regal – Chivas 12 Year Old

Chivas Regal – Chivas Extra 13 Year Old – Tequila Cask



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2023 Medal Results



CONTEMPORARY &
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Gin

Double Gold

Island Gin – Island Gin Navy Strength
Southward Distilling – Smoked Rosemary
Ukiyo – Japanese Blossom Gin

Gold

1919 Distilling – 1919 Distilling Pineapple Bits
Callington Mill – Callington Mill Poltergeist Unfiltered Gin
Clarity – 2023 Gin
Curiosity Gin – Negroni Special
Dr Beak – New Zealand Premium Gin
Good George Distilling – Distiller's Series – Taurus – Orange Blossom & Manuka Honey
Hector's Gin – Hector's Little Akaloa Pink Blossom Gin
Humdinger – Citrus Gin
Juno – Jean
Lighthouse Gin – Lighthouse Navy Strength Gin
Mothers Ruined Gin – Mothers Ruined – Original Gin
National Distillers Company – Old Navy
National Distillers Company – Verdigris
New Zealand Gin Day – New Zealand Gin Day
Old Mate Distillery Ltd – Captain's Table Navy Strength Gin
Papaiti Gin – Potager
Roots Gin – Roots Norwester Navy Strength Gin
Tanqueray – Tanqueray London Dry Gin
Taupō Distilling Co. – 5 Mile Gin – Navy
Trident Distilleries – Protogin Kaffir Lime

Silver

1919 Distilling – 1919 Classic Gin
Archie Rose – Bone Dry Gin
Archie Rose – Distiller's Strength Gin
Archie Rose – Lemon Scented Gum Gin Harvest 2021
Archie Rose – Signature Dry Gin
Archie Rose – Straight Dry Gin
Archie Rose – Sunrise Lime Gin Harvest 2020
Awildian – Coromandel Mānuka Gin
Awildian – Coromandel Spiced Gin
Bombay Sapphire – Bombay Sapphire Limited Edition Sunset Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Barrel Aged Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Navy Strength Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Queenstown Edition Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Quince Gin
Brunswick Aces – Spades Gin
Bureaucrats Gin Ltd – The Bureaucrat
Chateau Leoube – Chateau Leoube Mediterranean Gin
Clarity – Clarity Dry Gin
Coatesvillian – Spice Gin
Dancing Sands Distillery – Sun-Kissed Gin
Dr Beak – 2022 Extended Maceration Gin "Juniperus"
Fenton Street Gin – 1564 Venus & Adonis
Fenton Street Gin – Merry Wives Of Windsor
Fenton Street Gin – The Beast With Two Backs
Flavour Gallery Gin Series – Reefton Distilling Co. - Rose
Ripple – Flavour Gallery Gin Series
Fords – Fords London Dry Gin
Forecast – Aotearoa Dry Gin
Forecast – Shepherd's Delight Gin
Forth Luck – NZ Dry Gin
Forth Luck – Premium Gin

2023 Medal Results

Gin Results Continued

Silver, Continued

Gin Day X 1919 – New Zealand Gin Day Gin
Ginato – Ginato Pinot Grigio
Ginato – Ginato Pompelmo
Good George Distilling – Aotearoa Dry Gin
Good George Distilling – Distiller's Series – Aries – Kaffir Lime & Yuzu
Good George Distilling – What Sort Of Fuckery Is This?!
Gordon's – Gordon's London Dry Gin
Gordon's – Gordon's Mediterranean Orange
Hector's Gin – Hector's French Farm Petit Pinot Gin
Hector's Gin – Hector's Long Harbour Ocean Wash Gin
Holland Road Distillery – Ginseng & Manuka Honey
Humdinger – Humdinger Dry Gin
Imagination – Imagination Navy Strength
Imagination – Imagination Triple Distilled Dry Gin
Island Gin – Island Gin Tangelo
Juno – Emily
Juno – Juno Extra Fine Gin
Juno – Monica
Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Agatha's Tears Dark Gin
Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Elizas' Claim Gold Gin
Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Elizas' Claim Ruby Gin
Kākāpō Distillery – Kākāpō Distillery Kawakawa And Pink Peppercorn Gin
Kākāpō Distillery – Kākāpō Distillery Mānuka Honey And Elderflower Gin
Kj & Co – Last Minute Gin 700ml
Lighthouse Gin – Lighthouse Original Gin
Malfy – Malfy Con Limone
Malfy – Malfy Originale
Method & Madness – Method & Madness Irish Gin
Moksha – Moksha Spice Of India Gin
National Distillers Company – Bloody Syrah
National Distillers Company – Chardonnay Reserve Gin
National Distillers Company – Foxy – Orchid
National Distillers Company – Ndc – Feijoa + Pear
National Distillers Company – NZ Native/ The Proof
National Distillers Company – Thistle Dew
No8 Distillery – No8 Horopito Gin
Old Mate Distillery Ltd – Out The Gate – Citrus Gin
Old Mate Distillery Ltd – Signature Dry Gin
Papaiti Gin – Orchard
Papaiti Gin – Whanganui Dry
Peaked – Mountain Wild Gin
Pink & White – Geothermal Gin – Pink – Berry
Resurrection Distillery – Rusty Halo Gin – Wilding Gin
Rifters – Blossomed Limited Release
Rifters – Original Dry
Rifters – Quartz Gin
Roots – Roots Marlborough Dry Gin
Ruin Distillery – The Classic 1689
Saddle Hill Brewery & Distillery – Clementine Gin
Saddle Hill Brewery & Distillery – NZ Dry Gin
Southward Distilling – Wave
The Alchemist's Distillery – Cask Gin
The Cambridge Distillery Co. – Knocknaveagh Black Label
Trespass Gin – Trespass Gin Master's Cut
Trident Distilleries – Auckland Dry Gin
Twelfth Hour Distillery Ltd – Twelfth Hour Dry Gin
Waiheke Distilling Co – Red Ruby
Waiheke Distilling Co – Spirit Of Waiheke
Yen Gin – Yen Gin

Bronze

1919 Distilling – 1919 Dry Pink Gin
Black Collar – Black Collar Gin
Bombay Sapphire – Bombay Sapphire Limited Edition Bramble Gin
Botanist – Botanist Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Original Gin
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Pinot Noir Gin
Curiosity Gin – Recipe #23
Dabblers Gin – Dabblers Naturally Infused Lemonade Gin
Dabblers Gin – Dabblers Naturally Infused Lime & Mint Gin

2023 Medal Results

Gin Results Continued

Bronze, continued

Dabblers Gin – Dabblers Naturally Infused Orange, Raspberry & Rhubarb Gin

Dancing Sands Distillery – Dancing Sands Dry Gin

Dancing Sands Distillery – Wasabi Gin

Eltom Distillery – Premium Dirty Gin

Flavour Gallery Gin Series – Reefton Distilling Co. – Citrus

Sunset – Flavour Gallery Gin Series

Flavour Gallery Gin Series – Reefton Distilling Co. – Hph –

Flavour Gallery Gin Series

Gin Lovers – Mayday Gin

Ginato – Ginato Melorano

Good George Distilling – Lemon Gin

Gordon's – Gordon's Premium Pink Distilled Gin

Gordon's – Gordon's Premium Pink Distilled Gin

Greytown Distilling Company Limited – Settler

Hasting Distillers – East Block 200

Haymans – Haymans London Dry Gin

Hector's Gin – Hector's Little River Lemon Verbena Gin

House Of Suntory – Roku

Humdinger – Sloe Gin

Imagination – Imagination Black Barn Syrah Barrel Aged

Imagination – Imagination Rhubarb And Raspberry Gin

Imagination – Imagination Summer Strawberry Gin

Island Gin – Island Gin Original

Juno – Autumn 23 Seasonal Gin

Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Elizas' Claim Dry Gin

Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Elizas' Claim Dry Gin

Ki No Bi – Ki No Bi Dry Gin

Kj & Co – #6 Gin 700ml

Lady H Gin – Lady H Gin

Little Bidy Gin – Little Bidy Gin – Hazy Spiced Apple

Malfy – Malfy Con Arancia

Malfy – Malfy Con Arancia

Malfy – Malfy Con Rosa

Mchenry – Mchenry Classic Dry Gin

Mothers Ruined Gin – Ginger Emerald Gin

Mt Fyffe Distillery – Shearwater Gin

Chemistry – Chemistry London Dry Gin

National Distillers Company – Art Deco

National Distillers Company – Hawkes Bay Cyclone Relief

National Distillery Company – Foxy Original

National Distillery Company – Grass & Leaf

National Distillery Company – Hemp

National Distillery Company – Queen Bee

National Distillery Company – Spooky

Peaked – Elderflower Gin

Rifters – Pinot Noir Barrel Aged Gin

Ruin Distillery – The Courage

Ruin Distillery – The Valley

Saddle Hill Brewery & Distillery – Blackcurrant Sour Gin

Sipsmith – Sipsmith London Dry

Tanqueray – Tanqueray Flor De Sevilla Distilled Gin

Tanqueray – Tanqueray No Ten

Tanqueray – Tanqueray Rangpur Distilled Gin

Taupō Distilling Co. – 5 Mile Gin – Dry

The Cambridge Distillery Co. – 92 Alpha Street Gin

The Cambridge Distillery Co. – Knocknaveagh 1862 Dry Gin

The Cambridge Distillery Co. – Knocknaveagh Cambridge Dry Gin

The Racketeer Gin – London Dry

The Racketeer Gin – Spiced Gin

The Racketeer Gin – Verbena

Ukiyo – Japanese Yuzu Citrus

Waiheke Distilling Co – London Dry

2023 Medal Results

Botanical and Other Spirit

Double Gold

Hasting Distillers – Rubis Rouge

Silver

Greytown Distilling Company Limited – Tweed

Hasting Distillers – Aubyn Orange

Kaimai Brewing And Distilling – Apple Pie Moonshine

No8 Distillery – No8 Absinthe

Bronze

Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Spiced Whisky

Greytown Distilling Company Limited – Apricity

The Cambridge Distillery Co. – The Gf Absinthe

Tequila/Agave Spirits

Gold

Del Maguey – Del Maguey Chichicapa

Silver

1800 Tequila – 1800 Anejo Tequila

Amigos Aotearoa – Mezcal Artesanal 100% Maguel

Espadin Joven

Olmecca Altos – Altos Reposado

Patron – Patron Silver Tequila

Bronze

1800 Tequila – 1800 Coconut Tequila

1800 Tequila – 1800 Silver Tequila

Olmecca Altos – Altos Plata

Brandies

Double Gold

Lheraud – Lheraud Cognac Vsop Limited Edition No 2

Gold

Elsewhen – Elsewhen Singularity

Silver

Broken Heart Spirits – Weinbrand

Elsewhen – Elsewhen Applejack

Johanneshof Cellars – Johanneshof Cellars Marlborough Grape

Brandy Edelbrand Solera 1991

O'Castle – Apple Pie

Tesseron – Tesseron Composition Cognac

2023 Medal Results

Liqueurs

Gold

Baileys – Baileys Irish Cream
Barlovska – Barlovska Blackberry
Curiosity Gin – Pinot Barrel Sloe
Quick Brown Fox – Quick Brown Fox Flat White Coffee Liqueur
Quick Brown Fox – Quick Brown Fox Liqueur

Silver

Auld Distillery – Usquebaugh – Single Malt Elixer
Awildian – Damson Gin
Barlovska – Barlovska Feijoa
Barlovska – Barlovska Spiced Honey
Broken Heart Spirits – Wild Plum Gin Elixir
Bumbu – Bumbu Cream
Cointreau – Cointreau 700ML
Dr Beak – 2022 New Zealand Garden Gin "Umeshu"
Duchess H – Duchess H Peach & Passionfruit Gin Cup Liqueur
Duchess H – Duchess H Apple Pie Gin Cup Liqueur
Fruko-Schulz – Liqueur Cream Fruko-Schulz 17% 700ML
Glayva – Glayva Honey Liqueur
Hasting Distillers – L'Opera
Jameson Irish Whiskey – Jameson Orange
Quick Brown Fox – Quick Brown Fox Overproof 2022
The Cambridge Distillery Co. – The Citrus Violin
Up A Tree Distillery – Apricot Liqueur

Bronze

Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Quince Liqueur
Brugal – Brugal 1888
Herrick Creek – Apple Pie Moonshine
Herrick Creek – Maple Moonshine
Juno – Limoncello
Midori – Midori
Up A Tree Distillery – Cherry Liqueur

2023 Medal Results



CATEGORY SPONSOR RUM

Rum

Gold

Bacardi – Bacardi Oro Gold Rum
Black Collar Distillery – Black Collar Overproof White Rum
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Spiced Rum
Kj & Co – Plunders Original Caribbean Rum 700MI
National Distillers Company – NDC Golden Rum

Silver

Archie Rose – Triple Molasses Rum
Archie Rose – White Cane
Bayside Rum Co. – Bayside 'Three Moons' Rum
Black Collar – Black Collar Rum
Black Collar – Black Collar Spiced Rum
Bumbu – Bumbu Xo
Cane X 1919 Distilling – Cane Single Cask
Eltom Distillery – Sigma Rum
Flor De Cana – Flor De Cana 12 Yo
Havana Club – Havana Club 7 Year Old
Lunatic & Lover – Barrel Rested Botanical Rum
Lunatic & Lover – Exponential
Lunatic & Lover – Silver Botanical Rum
The NZ Rum Co. – Mcjaggery White Rum
National Distillers Company – NDC Botanical White Rum
National Distillers Company – NDC Dark Rum
The Alchemist's Distillery – Dark Rum
The Alchemist's Distillery – Golden Rum
Triple Berry Botanical Rum – The NZ Rum Co. – Triple Berry

Bronze

Bacardi – Bacardi 8 Year Old Aged Rum
Bacardi – Bacardi Carta Blanca White Rum
Bacardi – Bacardi Spiced Rum
Black Collar – Black Collar Spiced Pineapple Rum
Black Collar Distillery – Black Collar White Rum
Broken Heart Spirits – Broken Heart Limited Edition Spiced Rum
Bumbu – Bumbu Original
Cane X 1919 Distilling – Cane Overproof
Eltom Distillery – Mark.1 Rum
Kj & Co – Lost Barrel Rum 700ml
Lunatic & Lover – Fundamental
National Distillers Company – NDC Botanical Gold Rum
The NZ Rum Co Spiced Rum. – The NZ Rum Co. – Spiced



2023 Summary of Entries

GIN 241

CONTEMPORARY / NAVY STRENGTH 89

FLAVOURED / AGED 66

LONDON DRY 86

VODKA 32

FLAVOURED / AGED 12

VARIETAL 20

WHISKEY 52

NORTH AMERICAN 7

TRADITIONAL 6

WORLD 39

RUM 43

SPICED / BOTANICAL 16

UNFLAVOURED 27

BRANDIES 8

BOTANICALS 17

AGAVE BASED 8

BOTANICAL 9

LIQUEURS 33

Total 426



2023 Medal Summary

	DOUBLE GOLD	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
GIN	3	21	89	69
VODKA	3	3	19	1
BOTANICALS & OTHER SPIRITS	1		4	3
LIQUEURS		5	17	7
RUM		5	19	13
BRANDIES		2	5	2
WHISKY	2	15	43	10
TEQUILA/AGAVE SPIRITS		1	4	3

Medals

Medals awarded on individual merit for each category:

Double-gold Awarded to the entries that receive a Gold medal rating by all members of the judging panel.

Gold Awarded to standout spirits that are near the peak of achievement.

Silver Awarded to impressive spirits that show sophistication, skill and intricacy.

Bronze Awarded to a well-rounded spirit with no outstanding flaws.

