

# BUSINESS INSIDER

## 10 eco-friendly alcohol brands to know, and what makes them sustainable

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- Alcohol production can be pretty taxing on old mother earth. Carbon dioxide output, nitrate and phosphate runoff, water over-usage; the list goes on.
- It can also be extremely tough on workers involved in the production process — just read "Grapes of Wrath," or tour a vineyard town — and you'll quickly realize that employee health and safety violations are still very much alive in the 21st century.
- Here are a few of our favorite alcohol brands working to move the ball forward for the environment and for industry workers.



El Tesoro

**El Tesoro Tequila composts all of its organic waste and lets 5% of its crop flower to make way for the lesser long-nosed bat, an endangered pollinator of agave plants.**

El Tesoro Tequila, which is made by La Alteña Distillery, is produced organically and all of the byproducts of the process are composted. Now, that's not so unique — another very fine tequila, [Casa Noble](#), is also certified organic and additive-free — but El Tesoro's eco-aware agave-harvesting practices really set it apart.

Some quick background info: most of today's agave is cloned, and it's harvested before it's able to reproduce. This leaves the agave gene pool with little to no diversity and an ever-weakening fortitude, which is risky business for an industry that relies so heavily on the plant. A single plague could potentially wipe out agave altogether.

In order to ensure future crops and save the endangered lesser long-nosed bat, which pollinates agave plants, El Tesoro Master Distiller Carlos Camarena pledged to allow at least 5% of the distillery's crops to flower. It's kind of a win-win, but it's an exceptionally sweet victory for nature.

The agave is also roasted more slowly than it is at many other distilleries, offering a noticeably smoother finish, even for the non-aged blanco at the bottom end of the brand's portfolio.