

Robb Report

9 Superb Whiskies Made in Unexpected Places, From Mexico to India

Explore world-class distilleries tucked into all corners of the globe.

By NICOLAS STECHER 🍷

Alfred Giraud Heritage French Malt, France



Photo: courtesy Alfred Giraud

With cognac the art of the spirit comes not in the distilling of the *eau de vie* but rather in the selection of barrels, precise aging techniques and then blending of the finished spirit. Unlike most alcohols such as whisky or agaves, the vineyards themselves normally do its own distilling and then sell the raw *eau de vie* to the House to do its magic. It's why the mastermind behind a cognac is dubbed master blender, not master distiller. French malt whisky maker [Alfred Giraud](#) taps cognac virtuoso Georges Clot as master blender of its two signature Heritage and Harmonie expressions. For decades the master blender of Rémy Martin—meaning he was the man responsible for Louis XIII—Clot's wizardry comes from the careful marrying of the best distillates sourced across France with Giraud's own single malts made at the historic Distillerie de Saint-Palais where it has been making cognac for almost two centuries.