

# Bloomberg

## The Tastiest Spirits of 2020 Took Us on a Journey

*From African rums to Australian whisky, the year's best new booze went beyond mere taste to something approximating escape.*

By Brad Japhe

There's nothing quite like a once-in-a-century pandemic to really help put things in perspective. By now, most of us have sworn to never again take for granted the everyday ups and downs of pre-Covid life. Dinner parties, music festivals, even weekday mornings on the 6 train; how we yearn for some semblance of regular movement to resume.

In the meantime, fans of fine spirits are cracking open a creative workaround: transportation by bottle...

And after tasting some 180 new bottles these past 12 months, I consider these the best ones for planning that perfect trip.

### **Fiji: Plantation Fiji 2005 rum**

*The best new rum I sipped this year is a funky firecracker from the cerulean seas of the South Pacific. Produced using local Fijian cane, and matured in French oak, the 15-year-old liquid is rich in vanilla and caramel around the edges—crowd-pleasing tasting notes, to be sure. But what keeps me coming back for more is that over-ripened tropical fruit at the epicenter. It refuses to quit and is, in fact, only lifted by the warming heat of a lengthy finish. For an entry-level variation—at a slightly lower proof—check out the \$25 Isle of Fiji bottling. \$80; [plantationrum.com](http://plantationrum.com)*

