

Rolling Stone

The 10 Best Tequila Brands to Pick Up Right Now

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By TIM CHAN



Sure, tequila shots are fun at parties (and maybe gives you some liquid courage before stepping onto that **karaoke stage**), but artists rapping about “shots of Patrón” have really given tequila an undeservedly bad (and, ahem, cheap) rep. These days, some of the best tequilas in the world are actually more comparable to a fine bourbon or robust glass of wine than jello shots and beer pong. Patrón, one of most well-known tequila brands in the world, actually offers a diverse portfolio of authentic tequilas that you won’t find in nightclubs or seedy bars. Despite the brand’s hard-partying reputation (blame it on lyrical shout-outs from everyone from Lil Jon to Bruno Mars), the company is actually making some incredibly interesting, flavorful and *expensive* tequila these days, with bottles of its Patrón En Laliq: Serie 2 going for **up to \$7,500 online**.

Not flaunting rapper-sized bank accounts? There are a handful of smooth, premium-tasting tequilas you can get for under \$100 too. You just need to know what to look for.

6. El Tesoro Anejo Tequila



If you want to discover an authentic Mexican tequila with a bold yet traditional flavor, then order a bottle of El Tesoro. El Tesoro may be owned by Beam Suntory, the Japanese company responsible for Suntory Whisky, but this tequila is still made from traditional methods and local agave. In fact, the grandson of founder Don Felipe Camarena oversees production today. The Anejo variety is aged in American oak bourbon barrels for up to three years, which results in a nice blend of warm agave and oak flavors. If you try this tequila neat, you’ll notice notes of maple, vanilla and caramel, balanced with pepper and floral tones.

El Tesoro Tequila, \$60, available at Reserve Bar