

PATRON

AÑEJO TEQUILA

80 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE; AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

Pale yellow, honey tone. Perfect clarity. This nose is far more advanced and generous than the Patron Silver, as roasted, toasty aromas of nuts, pine, cedar, and fruit (especially nectarine) enchant the olfactory sense. The nose is worth two stars on its own. On palate, the gracefulness found in the aroma continues as measured, semisweet flavors of bittersweet chocolate and coffee beans come to the forefront at midpalate. Aftertaste is supple, almost stately, and very satisfying. An excellent añejo as a slammer with lime and salt.



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PORPIDIO

AÑEJO SINGE BARREL TEQUILA

80 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE; AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE; 561-831-6300

Pale amber tone. Nose rockets out of the glass in musty waves of mushroom, old attic, bacon fat, and steamed vegetables. While this might not sound appetizing, this bouquet is seductive and earthy. I can almost smell the soil of Jalisco. The vegetal, baconlike splendor continues in the sexy taste as fruity, round, and immensely charming flavors disarm the taste buds. Finish is ultra-clean and sleek. Highly stylistic and top-notch all the way. I'd bathe in it if I could afford it, though I think the cactus-in-the-bottle trick is gimmicky and stupid.



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RESERVA DEL DUENO

AÑEJO TEQUILA

83.4 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE; AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

Very pale, white-winelike, flaxen, yellow hue. Excellent clarity. Nose is alive with lovely herbal, vegetal and almost sweet aromas that enchant the olfactory sense right from the first nosing. With aeration, this intriguing bouquet develops an atypical but luscious dark-toffee quality that's laced with dill and red pepper. I seriously admire this superb añejo nose, one that's every bit as polished as it is vibrant. In the mouth, the creamy sweetness caresses the taste buds as the acid backbone offsets the sweet, vegetal, herbal surface-layer flavor. Midpalate is rich, creamy, and almost brandylike. This añejo is as close to the classic Herradura style as I've come across. Luscious in very sour margaritas.

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SAUZA CONMEMORATIVO

AÑEJO TEQUILA

80 PROOF; AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

White-winelike appearance of straw-yellow, with green highlights. Decidedly winey, nose emits nuanced hints of earth, yeast, esters, salt, and chalk. It has a potent, semi-dry, spiry, winelike bearing on palate.

Then citrus flavors burst onto the back of the tongue. Delicious and succulent right up to the high-flying orange, pineapple, banana finish that's wonderfully fruity and alone is worth the price of the bottle. A graceful mouthful.

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JOSE CUERVO AÑEJO RESERVA DE LA FAMILIA TEQUILA

80 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE;
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE;
800-TEQUILA

Atypical nut-brown, chestnut-brown hue. Absolute purity. Nose is a banquet of aromas, including caramel, agave herbaceousness, vanillin (from oak barrels), dried flowers, and heady, mature spirit. Every nosing reveals another level of aroma. In the mouth, a biscuity, whiskeylike entry flavor keeps the taste buds in a state of confusion. The mid-palate phase is dominated by an intensely sweet woodiness, with nary a trace of agave herbaceousness. Finish is long, sticky, sweet, and heavily oaked. For spirits enthusiasts, an unusual libational experience worth having. For tequila purists, an ungainly behemoth.

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JOSE CUERVO ESPECIAL GOLD TEQUILA

80 PROOF;
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE;
800-TEQUILA

Pale yellow color. Pleasingly rich, dry, opulent nose of garden-fresh herbs, cactus, and artichoke hearts enchant the olfactory sense not with elegance but with directness. On palate, the velvety texture greets the taste buds. Nicely balanced flavors of herbs (especially anise), mild licorice, plus a bit of tar keep the palate alert. It finishes as agreeably as it begins in the nose. Best to drink neat, but refreshing and tasty in margaritas. A gold standard.

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PATRON SILVER TEQUILA

80 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE;
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

This silver has been highly touted by some writers, but I confess that I miss the point. It's better than average, to be sure, but it's not the key to nirvana like some of the ill-informed would have you believe. Clear. Nose is nicely balanced between fruit, roasted peppers, and spirit. On palate, it shows good viscosity and ample amounts of butter, boiled green vegetables, and resin. Aftertaste is seriously long and meaty. A solid performer.

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PORFIDIO REPOSADO TEQUILA

80 PROOF; 100% DE AGAVE;
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE: 561-837-6300

Pale straw, white-winelike appearance. Crystal clarity. Opening aroma following the pour is politely herbal and dry. Midstage nosings uncover little more in the way of depth, and it isn't until the final pass that a keen pepperiness enters the dill-like bouquet, making for an understated but pleasant sniffing experience. At palate entry, an austere delicacy is quickly replaced with a vibrant, piquant spiciness that turns sweet at mid-palate. Flavor phase gradually builds to a crescendo on the tongue — delightful. Finish shows little of the zest admired at the midpalate point, leaving one feeling a bit cheated. A good but hardly great entry in the tequila sweepstakes. Grossly overpriced.

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