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close supervision when picking and weighing botanicals. A decent gin should be beautifully balanced, of course, but it takes expertise to know which seeds, barks and roots work well together and exactly how much of each one to use. Caddy, who has been making his own premium spirits for six years, wanted a long discussion before getting started. We decided *The Telegraph's* gin must reflect its high-summer release, and be refreshing, with a citrus edge and more herbaceous notes. I was warned against too many floral elements; roses in high quantity can make a gin seem "soapy", apparently.

As well as juniper, we decided on dried grapefruit peel and hibiscus

RAY WILLIAMS FOR THE TELEGRAPH



GOOD SPIRITS
Susy Atkins and Cosmo Caddy get stuck into distilling a gin for subscribers of *The Telegraph*

ESSENTIAL SUMMER GINS

6 O'CLOCK GIN
JEKKA'S EDITION
BOUQUET GARNI
Thorbury, Bristol (40%,
6oclockgin.com, £38)



If you like highly herbaceous gins, this is for you. Containing botanicals sourced from renowned herbalist Jekka McVicar's organic herb farm, it delivers nuances of tarragon, meadow hay and fennel fronds.

HAWTHORN'S GIN
London (41%,
hawthornsgin.com, £22)



No wacky flavours here in a classically styled new London Dry Gin, juniper led with a clean streak of citrus zest. Inspired by the recipe of the creator's grandfather, a Royal Navy commander during the Second World War. One for gin purists, and good value.

ADNAMS LEMON & TAMARIND GIN
Southwold, Suffolk (40%,
adnams.co.uk, £29.99)



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