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*Heritage Distilling Co. Repeats as Most Awarded Craft Distillery  
in North America for 2015;  
Wins multiple “Best of Category” medals*

Gig Harbor, Washington (April 2, 2015) - Heritage Distilling Company (HDC) earned 14 medals at the 2015 Craft Spirits Conference hosted by the American Distilling Institute (ADI), the most of any medals awarded to a craft distillery in North America for 2015. This is the second consecutive year that HDC earned more medals than any other craft distillery in North America at the ADI craft spirits judging, building on the seven medals HDC won last year at the same conference.

“We are honored and humbled by our results at this year’s ADI blind judging for craft spirits,” said Justin Stiefel, Co-Founder, CEO and Master Distiller at Heritage Distilling. “We are especially proud given the rigorous standards employed by ADI during the blind judging and the caliber of judges gathered from around the world to sample and rate the craft spirits submitted,” he added.

HDC’s 14 medals spanned across eight separate categories, and included four “Best of Category” medals and three Gold Medals. The 14 awards listed by category, medal, and spirit include:

**Whiskeys**

1. Bourbon (Aged less than 1 Year) - Gold Medal - Best of Category - *HDC Cask Club Bourbon*
2. Bourbon (Aged 1-2 Years) - Gold Medal - Best of Category - *HDC Elk Rider Bourbon Whiskey*
3. Rye Whiskey, Clear (unaged) - Silver Medal - Best of Category - *HDC Commander's Rye Whiskey*
4. Bourbon (Aged less than 1 Year) - Bronze Medal - *HDC Tacoma New West Bourbon*
5. Bourbon Mash Whiskey, Clear (unaged) - Bronze Medal - *HDC My Batch Bourbon*

**Vodkas**

6. New-made Wheat Vodka - Silver Medal - *HDC Elk Rider Wheat Vodka*
7. New-made Grape Vodka - Bronze Medal - *HDC My Batch Vodka*

**Flavored Vodkas**

8. Gold Medal - Best of Category - *HDC Char Barrel Finished Vodka*
9. Silver Medal - *HDC Naturally Flavored Strawberry Vodka*
10. Bronze Medal - *HDC Naturally Flavored Cherry Lime Vodka*
11. Bronze Medal - *HDC Naturally Flavored Ginger Vodka*
12. Bronze Medal - *HDC Naturally Flavored Grapefruit Vodka*
13. Bronze Medal - *HDC Naturally Flavored Raspberry Vodka*

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## **Gin**

### 14. Barrel-Aged Distilled Gin - Silver Medal - *HDC Char Barreled Finished Soft Gin*

“To earn two Gold Medals for our aged bourbon whiskeys, including two “Best of Category” medals, is gratifying, especially considering the caliber and number of other craft distilleries across America and Canada”, Stiefel noted. “We are most proud that every medal we won this year was for products that we distilled from scratch using as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible. One hundred percent of the spirits we entered into the judging started as a raw grain that we milled, mashed and fermented, or a fruit wine, that we ran through our stills from scratch. To win so many awards for such a variety of spirits across the whiskey, vodka and gin categories demonstrates the depth and breadth of our increasing line of products and the attention to detail that we work very hard to employ daily.”

A total of 457 craft spirits were submitted to ADI for judging this year from all over the U.S. and Canada. Judging was conducted February 23-25 in San Francisco in a blind fashion and was not open to viewing by the general public or distilleries. This year’s Craft Spirits Conference, where the awards were announced, was held in Louisville, Kentucky from March 31-April 2, 2015. The conference is host to more than 1,300 craft distillers, aspiring distillers, industry professionals and vendors.

#### **About Heritage Distilling Company, Inc.**

Heritage Distilling Company, Inc. (HDC) is one the premier craft distilleries in the United States, making a variety of whiskeys, vodkas and gins from as many local ingredients as possible. HDC is one of the largest craft distilleries in the Pacific Northwest, producing nearly 20,000 proof gallons of spirits in 2014 alone. HDC is also home to the innovative *Cask Club* and *My Batch* programs, which allow customers to custom distill and age their own batches of spirits in the distillery.

HDC’s line of spirits include the *Elk Rider* series, the *HDC* series and more than 20 naturally flavored vodkas. HDC also produces the *BATCH NO. 12* line of spirits. HDC’s products can be found in bars, restaurants and retailers across Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Wyoming and Montana. Distribution is slated to start in North Carolina and South Carolina in Spring 2015.

HDC currently operates in Washington State, home to more than 100 craft distilleries – the most of any state in the nation. HDC owns two distilleries in Gig Harbor, with tastings, tours and retail sales at both locations. New HDC location openings, product releases and more information can be found at [www.HeritageDistilling.com](http://www.HeritageDistilling.com).

#### **About the American Distilling Institute**

Since 2003 ADI has been instrumental in the growth of the craft distilling industry. As a professional membership organization its publications, website and annual conferences bring about greater public awareness and appreciation of craft spirits. ADI operates two annual conferences each year, one in the US and one in Europe. It is the leading organization for small craft distilleries across North America, representing the interests of now more than 600 craft distilleries, with more being added weekly. More information about the ADI Spirits Judging, the Annual Conference or its offerings for members can be found at <http://distilling.com/>.

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