



Wipe that gin off your face

The experience of meeting the maker, tasting their creations, and picking up a bottle or two to take home is no longer restricted to the world of wine. Craft gin distilling has gathered pace in Australia, with a collection of hidden gems producing quality products scattered around the country. We’ve uncovered some of the gin distilleries which are making a splash.

New South Wales

Rose’s pure botanical distillates to create their own signature blends.

Archie Rose Distilling Co.

Archie Rose produces a range of gins, whiskies, vodkas and rums and lays claim to being “Australia’s most highly awarded distillery”. Founded in 2014 and located in Rosebery, Sydney, the distillery welcomes visitors looking to learn about the process and range and try their hand at creating their own spirit onsite. The blend your own gin class walks visitors through the history of gin and how it’s made at Archie Rose, followed by the chance to blend a selection of Archie

Earp Distilling Co.

Newcastle’s Earp Distilling Co bar and distillery was created to share the mysteries of the distilling world with its visitors. The tasting bar adjoins the distillery and lab, with viewing windows showcasing the distillery operations. Visitors can kick back for a guided tour, tour and tasting, or for the full experience, a three-hour class at “Spirit School” which sees participants distil their own gin.



Top: The distilling process at Archie Rose Distilling Co ©Destination NSW

Left: Visit Earp Distilling Co ©Earp Distilling Co

Right: Enjoy drinks mixed using Archie Rose gin ©Destination NSW

Victoria

The Whiskery

The Whiskery is the cellar door for Bellarine Distillery and is set in a restored original farm shed. The distillery was established in 2015 as the first on the Bellarine Peninsula. It was also the first in the greater Geelong region since the closure of Corio Distillery in the 1980's. A range of botanicals are grown on the property and combined with other Australian botanicals and flavours the world to create unique gins.

Queensland

Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing Company

Bundaberg is known as Australia's rum capital, but it is also home to Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing, which produces gin, vodka and liqueurs. The small batch distillery focuses on quality over quantity and uses premium ingredients in its gin, including lemon myrtle, cinnamon myrtle, ginger and native finger limes. Kalki Moon shares its passion through free guided tours, which are followed by a tasting.

Western Australia

Margaret River Distilling Company

Margaret River Distilling Company is the distillery behind Giniversity Gin, which is known for using native botanicals to add a local twist. The Giniversity experience invites its students to mix and match botanicals and each "graduate" leaves with a bottle of gin that reflects their own personality and palate. Experiences include a blending class and distillation class. Next door to the distillery there is also four-star chalets available, which are set amongst seven acres of natural bushland.



Top: Kangaroo Island Spirits ©Meaghan Coles/South Australia Tourism Commission

Middle from left to right: The Whiskery ©Chris McConville/Visit Victoria; Distillery Door at Big River Distilling Co; Nonesuch Distillery ©Kathryn Leahy/Tourism Tasmania

Bottom from left: Kalki Moon's products ©Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing Company; learning about the distilling process at Margaret River Distilling Company ©Tourism Western Australia



Tasmania

Nonesuch Distillery

Located just 15 minutes from Hobart Airport, Nonesuch Distillery combines local botanicals alongside more traditional ingredients. This saw it develop its Sloe Gin, made using sloe fruit picked from old hedgerows around the state. The fruit is then soaked in gin until the ideal colour, taste and aroma are achieved. Visitors are invited to step inside the craft distillery to meet the founder or distiller to learn how its gins and whiskies are produced and to taste the range.

South Australia

Kangaroo Island Spirits

Kangaroo Island Spirits opened as South Australia's first boutique distillery in 2006. Gin is the distillery's headliner, but it also produces a variety of liqueurs and vodkas. Kangaroo Island Spirits has an emphasis on using local and native ingredients and produces gin distilled using mulberries and native juniper. Pop into the distillery for a blend your own gin experiences or book a table for a group in the Gin Garden to sample some signature cocktails.

Australian Capital Territory

Big River Distilling Co.

Big River Distilling Co. creates artisan spirits using quality ingredients and developed by an ex-winemaker. Drop into the Distillery Door at Big River, located near where the Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin join, for a guided tasting of its gins and vodka. For a more comprehensive experience, book a tour and tasting to learn about the science behind making gin with the founder and distiller, followed by a tasting of three of Big River's core range of spirits.