

Fifty Pounds

GIN

RARE *and* HANDCRAFTED
LONDON DRY

The History of Gin

In the 1720's gin was blamed for misery, crime, high death rates and madness! In response to a public outcry, King George II's government was forced to take action and the 1736 Gin Act was passed. This taxed all retail sales at 20 shillings a gallon and applied a £50.00 annual license fee to allow the distillation and sale of gin. It is probably no surprise that in the following seven years records show that only two distilleries took out a licence!

Why is it called Fifty Pounds Gin?

The distillers of this gin have privately maintained an original recipe for many years which, due to the work involved and its high quality, was ironically known as Fifty Pounds amongst them in honour of the Gin Act 1736.

Who produces Fifty Pounds Gin?

It is made by a small distillery in South East London which has been distilling gin for more than two centuries, and belongs to a family with an extremely long history of distilling. The master distiller is the president of the English distillers' association. The company is called 'Thames Distillers'.

The Secret Recipe

Fifty Pounds Gin is made with a grain spirit base where the botanicals are steeped in alcohol for at least two days after which it is distilled. Whilst the exact botanical input is a closely guarded secret, it is widely believed that there are eleven in total. Eight of these are commonly found in the best quality gins – juniper, angelica root, coriander, liquorice root, grains of paradise, lemon and orange rind and savoury. The remaining botanicals are kept secret, but see if you can recognise either cassia bark or nutmeg.

Made in batches of around 1000 bottles at a time, Fifty Pounds Gin is a thoroughbred London Dry Gin sitting at 43.5% alc. The aroma is classic with lemon and juniper prominent, whilst the palate offers juniper in a pole position followed by coriander and angelica.

A nice touch is that the bottles are inspired by the design of the first gin bottles that were made – each bottle bears the individual distillation batch number together with the year that it was distilled. Unlike wine, you are not going to benefit from bottle age, so no need to hoard these away in the cellar. Ideal for the classic G&T or as part of a cocktail.

If you're interested in the Fifty Pound Gin please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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