

The Hit List

EAT | SHOP | PLAY
by CLAY BARBOUR

Rousing reviews

The early reviews are in on the new rye being made out of Catoctin Creek Distilling Co., and it sounds tasty. *Paste* magazine said of the new Rabble Rouser Bottled in Bond Rye Whisky, “The 100% rye is aged for four years and bottled at 100 proof. It pours a deep mahogany and has an incredibly enticing nose full of cherries and toasted marshmallows.

There’s nothing but rye in the bottle, so you’ve got plenty of spice to contend with, with notes of pepper and ash, but also a hell of a lot of caramel, like from the center of your favorite candy bar. There’s some stone fruit in there, maybe some figs and something nutty, like cashews. A layer of heat underscores all of it so you realize you’re drinking a relatively high-proof rye.”

That sounds so good we can hardly wait until it’s released in February.

THIRSTY?
FOUR WAYS TO MAKE
A GIN AND TONIC:
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Moved by the Spirits

Richmond-based Virago Spirits has opened a tasting room in the Boulevard District. The new spot features a rotating cocktail menu and cozy lounge with a fireplace and view of the distillery’s vintage still. Bottles and other merchandise are available for purchase.

Treat yourself to a new pair of jeans

Handmade denim is durable and stylish, but it is not always form-fitting. This sure isn’t a problem with the beautiful S74 made by Shockoe Atelier. The midrise, lean-fit jeans come from denim woven in Italy and made by hand in the Richmond factory. They offer just enough stretch to look good, while also being comfortable.



East on the rise

His name may sound a bit odd, but his music sounds pretty dang sweet. Anderson East is scheduled to play the NorVa Feb. 27 and that is very good news for those who prefer their music to have a pleasing mix of soul, rhythm and blues, and country.

Anderson, an Alabama native, was nominated for a Grammy last year for his song *All on My Mind*, but he’s been on the radar ever since his 2015 album, *Delilah*. With a soulful voice that borders on husky, Anderson is able to call forth all the pain required to sell a song like *Devil in Me*.

If you like Sturgill Simpson or Jason Isbell, you will love Anderson. Check him out.



Return of the King

Sharp eyes may have recently caught a glimpse of local celebrity Clarence Giddens on TV. The Eastern Shore performer, also known as Black Elvis, was one of a handful of impersonators featured in the new commercial for Apple’s Group FaceTime. A collection of Elvi, representing various cultures and ethnicities, performed the song *There’s Always Me*, while on FaceTime with one another.

Resplendent in his gold lamé jacket, Giddens, the subject of a *Distinction* cover story last February, sings his part at a white piano in a penthouse suite in a Los Angeles hotel. Giddens said the whole experience was a whirlwind, with producers flying him to Los Angeles in early October for the shoot, which took about a week.

“We had to keep it secret until it came out,” he said. “We even had to sign nondisclosure agreements.”

VISIT VIRGINIA
DISCOVER WHAT STAUNTON, VA
HAS TO OFFER: PAGE 78



LIKE 'EM RAW?

DON'T MISS THIS ONE.
THE NEW OYSTER CULT IN
VIRGINIA BEACH: PAGE 44

Bowman does it again

The A. Smith Bowman Distillery won two medals at the 2018 New York World Wine & Spirits Competition: gold for its John J. Bowman Single Barrel Virginia Straight Bourbon and silver for its Bowman Brothers Small Batch Virginia Straight Bourbon.

