

Quality will out – and it did

Patience Gould and her fellow judges were suitably impressed with the standard at this year's Spirits Business Gin Masters



THERE'S SOMETHING rather joyous about sitting down to a tasting of some of the world's finest gins – but that's life on *The Spirits Business* for you! This year's Gin Masters was staged at Southwark's Refinery – a cavernous, modern bar and restaurant that gets very busy – so an early morning start was a must.

Overall quality was the one unmistakable difference in this year's

tasting compared with 2008, but then given the nature of the gin market per se – this was only to be expected. Tellingly, across the three packed flights there was only one gin that prompted any negative comment – but my lips are sealed.

Fellow judges Gin Time's Geraldine Coates, High Alcohol's Peter McKay, Waitrose's Keith Lyon and me had a very happy time sipping, slurping and tasting.



THE JUDGES

From left to right: Editor of the Spirit Business' Patience Gould; Peter McKay from Alcohols; Gin Time's Geraldine Coates and Waitrose's Keith Lyon

GIN MASTERS

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COMPANY	PRODUCT	AWARD
Premium		
Spirit of Lakes	Bedrock	Silver
Chivas Brothers	Beefeater 40%	Gold
Lion Nathan	Christie's	Gold
Chivas Brothers	Beefeater 47%	Master
Super-Premium		
William Grant	Hendrick's Gin	Silver
Chivas Brothers	Beefeater 24	Gold
Hi-Spirits	No.209	Gold
Int. Beverage Holdings	Caorunn	Gold
Zuidam Distillers	Zuidam Dry Gin	Master
Micro-distilleries		
Sipsmith	Sipsmith London Dry Gin	Gold
Sacred Gin	Sacred Gin	Master
Design & Packaging		
Lion Nathan	Christie's	Silver
Eurowinegate	G'Vine Nouasion	Silver
Eurowinegate	G'Vine Floraison	Gold
Chivas Brothers	Beefeater	Gold
Chivas Brothers	Beefeater 24	Master

Peter McKay remarked that much as the case had been with vodka, the super-premium gins were disappointing compared to the premium counterparts. I certainly found that with the Vodka Masters last year – but did not feel it to be so much the case with the gins that we had been testing.

There were some real oohs and ahs when it came to the micro-distiller class – it was indeed a gloriously high note to finish on. Keith Lyon was very impressed overall, declaring that he had found some “very interesting” things, he was full of praise for the Refinery – and that was before lunch! 🍷

