



## F. Paul Pacult's Spirit Journal

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F. PAUL PACULT'S  
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### THE SPIRIT JOURNAL'S 41 BEST FIVE STAR WHITE SPIRITS FOR 2010

#### TEQUILA & MEZCAL

**Editor's comments:** Continues to be one of the hottest categories in all of beverage alcohol as more and more

Americans turn into agave aficionados (and sometimes snobs). The earthy, salty, minerally, vegetal qualities of agave-based spirits is ideal for North American palates and as long as Mexican and Tex/Mex cuisines remain uppermost in the major U.S. metro areas, tequila will remain a player. Mezcal is coming on medium-strong as the more astute mezcateros tidy up their distillates.

**1) Partida Reposado  
100% Agave Tequila (Mexico);  
40% abv, \$55.**

For my money, one of the top five spirits in the world and simply Mexico's finest agave-based distillate. The key element to Partida Reposado is its exquisite balance. Every aspect is in harmony and, as a result, the drinking pleasure is sophisticated and sublime.



The True Spirit of Tequila  
[www.partidatequila.com](http://www.partidatequila.com)





The tequila drinker's best choice for either shots or for cocktails, like the Margarita or Paloma. The standard for the category.

**3) Partida "Elegante" 100% Agave Extra Añejo Tequila (Mexico); 40% abv, \$350.**

It's hard for me to decide between this majestic spirit and the Leyenda as the grandest of the Extra Añejos, but I've given the Gran Centenario the slightest edge as my Number Two Tequila selection. That is not to say that I wouldn't be seriously happy to have this finely structured masterpiece from Gary Shansby as a daily tippie. Elegante is every inch the perfect tequila aristocrat, from its nuanced green pep-

per and cooking spice bouquet to its satiny texture and honeyed flavor. Wow. Drink it neat and in a white wine glass.

## THE 5 "TRAPPED-ON-A-DESERT-ISLAND" SPIRITS THAT SUE AND I COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT

Listed in no particular order of preference. We love them all.

**1) Highland Park 18 Orkneys Single Malt Whisky (Scotland); 43% abv, \$100.**

**2) William Larue Weller/2009 Antique Collection Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (USA) 67.4% abv, \$65.**

**3) Cointreau Liqueur (France) 40% abv, \$35.**

**4) Partida Reposado 100% Agave Tequila (Mexico); 40% abv, \$55.**

**5) Tanqueray London Dry Gin (England); 47.3% abv, \$22.**

**Reasoning:** Goes with saying that the **Highland Park 18** choice is just to have it. We'd also need **Fever Tree Tonic Water** to have with the **Tanqueray London Dry Gin** for Gin & Tonics for me. Sue, on the other hand, would require **Noilly Prat**

**Vermouth** for Dry Martinis with the Tanqueray, with lemons for her twist. **The Partida Reposado** and the **Cointreau** only need fresh squeezed lime juice for original, devilishly tart Margaritas. The **William Larue Weller** is there for sipping by both of us and as the base ingredient for Whiskey Sours.

Think about a case of each should keep us going 'til the U.S. Coast Guard rescues us.



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