

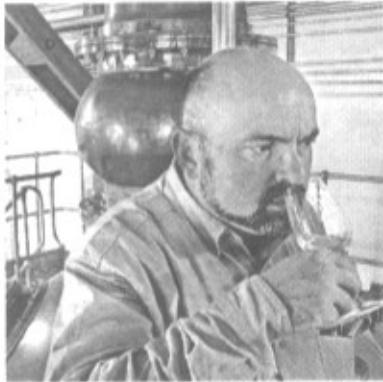


The New York Times

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

From the Land of Grapes, A Different Spirit

When Leslie Rudd, the owner of Rudd Winery in Oakville, Calif., bought Edge Hill, a winery in St. Helena, Calif., that was founded in 1882, he discovered a building on the land that bore a well-worn sign, Registered Distillery No. 209. That



Right, Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

heartened Mr. Rudd, who wanted to make a gin at the winery. "There are 400 vodkas out there, but gin drinkers are neglected," he said.

But Edge Hill is in a grape-growing agricultural area, a designation that does not permit the manufacture of grain spirits. So he took over a pier in San Francisco, installed a copper pot still and hired

Arne E. Hillesland (above) as ginmaker.

The resulting artisanal gin, No. 209, has an alluring citric perfume, thanks to an infusion of bergamot peel along with more typical spices like juniper. The bottle, right, was inspired by the shape of an old one that was used for gin in the Netherlands. The gin is around \$39 at Le Du's Wines, Beekman Liquors and Mister Wright.



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