

DISTILLING DESTINATIONS

Distilling Sunshine

Florida Craft Distilleries Define Local Flavor

BY JOHN HOLL

“The distillery is a vehicle to improve Vero Beach, Florida and the U.S.,” says Palleschi. “We want to bring folks together. We believe we have more in common than not. We are patriots and love this country. We especially support veterans and children with learning challenges. We do not say no to supporting worthwhile charities (that align with our values and beliefs) with in-kind donations.”

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“I think Florida is in a unique position for craft distilleries,” says Jeff Palleschi, the president and CEO of 21st Amendment Distillery in Vero Beach. “The soil is conducive to grow almost all grains and sugarcane. We have a lot of open land available unlike many other states. The Florida legislature seems to be in favor of de-regulation. The Florida economy is better than most states. More and more Americans are moving to Florida. And regarding whiskey—the high temps can be quite extreme down here which helps mature—not age—our whiskey at a faster rate.”