



Press release

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## **Yorkshire start-up distillery wins bronze in world gin awards**

A Yorkshire-based distillery has won an international taste award for its inaugural gin.

Cooper King Distillery, based in Sutton-on-the-Forest, North Yorkshire, has been awarded bronze in the World Gin Awards.

Using vacuum distillation, Cooper King's Dry Gin is bronze winner for the UK Contemporary Style Gin. In a competition which attracted over 4000 gin entries, the accolade puts the start-up in a prestigious list amongst just 17 other UK gins.

Celebrating the world's best gin's, The World Gin Awards is part of the World Drinks Awards; global awards selecting the very best in all internationally recognised styles of drinks. The World Drinks Awards select, reward and promote the world's best drinks to consumers and trade across the globe.

The UK heat was held in London's Caledonian Club on Thursday 10 January 2019.

Each gin must go through a rigorous three-step process of judging. First each gin is tasted in its relevant style to identify and select the style winners. Judges making up the World Gin Awards panel include international, leading journalists, specialist drinks retailers and industry experts.

Style winners are then tasted against each other to identify the best gin in each category and finally, the best gins in each category are then tasted against each other one last time to select the world's best gin.

Established in 2016 by Dr Abbie Neilson and Chris Jaume, Cooper King Distillery is a self-built, 100% green distillery located in the heart of Yorkshire. The Dry Gin is the distillery's first product which launched in May 2018. The gin now has two international awards to its name, the first being a Gold award at the International Wine and Spirit Competition's DMA awards in October 2018

Commenting on the recent award, co-founder and distiller Abbie who attended the day said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded bronze in the Worlds Gin Awards. We're passionate about flavour and are committed to producing great tasting spirits which are considerate to the environment and embrace our Yorkshire heritage. We use locally-grown Yorkshire lavender and honey from our own beehives and support local charities and international environmental initiatives by planting Yorkshire woodland for every bottle of Dry Gin sold.

“Our gin only launched eight months ago so to be recognised in such a prestigious industry award so soon is an extremely proud moment for the small Cooper King team”

**-Ends-**

### **Notes to the editor**

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### **About Cooper King Distillery**

Located in the heart of Yorkshire, Cooper King Distillery is a self-built, family-owned gin and whisky distillery built on the site of a stable.

Formed in 2016, by Dr Abbie Neilson, a former scientist and Chris Jaume, a chartered architect, Cooper King Distillery is independent, self-built and powered by 100% green energy.

With a desire to leave the rat race, co-founders Chris and Abbie travelled across the globe, in search of sun, sand and adventure. Whilst visiting Australia the pair became fascinated by Tasmania’s eight operational whisky distilleries and the hand-crafted premium whisky industry, which was just starting to take off in this part of the world.

With a mission to bring their discoveries back to Britain, Chris and Abbie set up a truly independent craft distillery back home in Sutton-on-the-Forest in North Yorkshire.

Taught by Bill Lark, the godfather of Tasmanian whisky, and armed with a wealth of knowledge gathered from across Tasmania’s now internationally acclaimed New World whisky distilleries and beyond, Cooper King Distillery produces authentic premium spirits, using the highest quality ingredients that England has to offer.

The distillery’s inaugural product, Cooper King Dry Gin was released in May 2018.

Hand distilled using honey from the distillery’s beehives, lemongrass and a touch of locally-grown lavender, the gin has incredible savoury lemongrass flavours, a silky mouthfeel and delicate floral notes.

Produced in micro-batches, Cooper King is the first distillery in Yorkshire to combine innovative cold vacuum distillation with traditional hot copper-pot distillation, in a process that’s tailored to suit each individual botanical, ensuring they extract the freshest, fullest flavours.

The initial reviews of Cooper King Dry Gin are extremely positive, with The Gin Fayre describing it as a ‘game changer’.

The company is the first distillery in Europe to join international environment initiative, 1% for the Planet, which sees 1% of sales of Cooper King Dry Gin contributed towards environmental non-profits. Cooper King Distillery will plant one square metre of native woodland for every bottle sold through a partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Its initial batch of premium single malt whisky, made using Yorkshire barley, is scheduled to go into production in autumn 2018, with a projected release date of 2023.

Inspired by Chris's great-great-grandfather, Charles Cooper King, the name Cooper King has rich historical ties to England and Yorkshire. Born in 1843, Charles, who was Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Marine Artillery, traced the Cooper King family history back to 1030, where he identified the Pigot family of Yorkshire, whose shield can still be seen today throughout Ripon Cathedral.

The Cooper King Distillery Founders' Club is offering craft spirit lovers a unique opportunity to become part of the Cooper King family and help make English distilling history. Membership tiers start from £30, which is ideal for a gift, through to more established memberships which include a name engraving on the Founders' Plaque in the distillery. Memberships also offer first access to rare and collectable whisky in the form of new, special, and small-batch releases, individually-numbered single cask releases from their early casks, plus the chance to own Cooper King Distillery's Inaugural Release bottle #1.

**To find out more about Cooper King Distillery, visit <http://www.cooperkingdistillery.co.uk/>**

**To join the Founders' Club, visit <https://www.cooperkingdistillery.co.uk/founders-club/>**