

*The*  
**Barber Shop**  
YORK ST



**GIN COMPENDIUM**

# What is Gin?

On 20th February 2008, the new EU definition recognising and legislating what can be termed as a 'gin' passed into EU law as part of the revised EU Spirit Drink Regulations. According to this legislation, all gins must be:

1. made with suitable ethyl alcohol flavoured with juniper berries and other flavourings
2. the ethyl alcohol must be distilled to the minimum standards stated in the EU Spirits Regulations
3. the predominant flavour must be juniper
4. water may be added to reduce the strength but the gin must have a minimum retail strength of 37.5% alc./vol
5. further ethyl alcohol of the same composition used in the distillation may be added after any distillation

The rules further legislate upon three distinctive definitions of gin: 'Gin', 'Distilled Gin' and 'London Gin'. Gin - the ethyl alcohol does not have to be redistilled, flavourings can be either approved natural or artificial flavourings and these can be simply cold compounded, and there is no restriction on the addition of other approved colour or flavouring additives such as sweeteners.

# Distilled Gin

must be made in a traditional still by re-distilling neutral alcohol in the presence of natural flavourings but there is no minimum strength stipulated for the resulting distillate; additional flavourings, sweeteners and other approved additives may be added after distillation and these can be natural or artificial; approved colourings may be used to colour distilled gin.

# London Gin

must be made in a traditional still by re-distilling neutral alcohol in the presence of natural flavours but there is no minimum strength stipulated for the resulting distillate; the ethyl alcohol used to distil London Gin must be of a higher quality the standard laid down for ethyl alcohol. The methanol level must not exceed 5 grams per hectolitre of 100% alc./vol; the flavourings used must all be approved natural flavourings and they must impart their flavour during the distillation process; the use of artificial flavouring is not permitted; the resultant distillate must have a minimum strength of 70% alc./vol.; no flavourings may be added after distillation; a small amount of sweetening may be added after distillation, but apart from water, no other substance may be added - sugars must not exceed 0.5 grams/litre of finished product; London Gin cannot be coloured.