

## Hamilton Overproof (151) and Hamilton 86 proof Demerara River Rums

Following the decision by Mosaiq not to continue to sell Lemon Hart 151 in the US, or in any other market, I have worked overtime to contract a supply and bottling of rum from Guyana that I could bottle under the Hamilton brand name.

Both of these rums are the same blend of aged pot still and column still rum from Guayan. I'm told the oldest rum is five years old and I believe my source based on my 20+ year relationship with the distillery.

Since May 2014 I evaluated rums from five distilleries but none had the smoky tobacco flavor for which the heaviest Demerara rums are known. While I was looking for a replacement for Lemon Hart in my portfolio I focused more on the rum and although I found less expensive alternatives, none had the full flavor and character of Demerara rum that I was looking for and wanted to drink at home or where ever I might be.

After tasting scores of samples, I settled on this blend that balances a high proof with the ripe, dark fruit, brown spices and smoky tobacco that have made Demerara rums leaders in the industry for more than 350 years.

These rums are imported in 1000 liter pallet tanks at 77% ABV then diluted with filtered (reverse osmosis) well water in Westfield, NY. After being reduced to 151 proof, some of the rum is bottled as Hamilton Overproof Rum. The balance of the bulk rum was diluted to 86 proof with the same filtered water and then colored with the addition of a small amount of caramel (1/8 as much as my Jamaican Pot Still Black Rum) to give it the darker color that my research told me the market was looking for.

Before I invested in the first bottling I asked Paul McGee and Jeff Berry their opinion of samples from this and other distilleries. Both of these men, for whom I have a lot of respect, based on their experience and the fact that they are buying more (good) rum than almost anyone in the US, agreed that this was as good as or better than Lemon Hart 151. Jeff Berry also graciously allowed me to use his name and the name of his New Orleans bar on the back label.

Use as a float in your favorite tiki drink. For more ideas than I can print on this label visit [BeachBumBerry.com](http://BeachBumBerry.com), or better yet, visit him at his New Orleans bar – Latitude 29.

Hamilton Overproof and Hamilton 86 proof Rum were **not** sourced and bottled to be a direct replacement for Lemon Hart – they were sourced and blended **to be better** than Lemon Hart.

The first bottling had the words Hamilton Demerara on the labels. Demerara Distillers Limited took offense at the use of their trademarked word 'Demerara'. After discussion with their US trademark attorney, I changed the label and removed the 'D' word from my labels. Since the words 'Demerara River' can not be trademarked and those words are not owned by Demerara Distillers Limited, my labels now say Distilled and Aged on the banks of the Demerara River.

Hamilton Overproof <http://www.caribbean-spirits.com/labeldetails.php?id=67>

Hamilton 86 proof <http://www.caribbean-spirits.com/labeldetails.php?id=68>

The third batch of these rums will be bottled in June 2015, with demand exceeding expectations.