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"The distilled spirits category has seen strong sales growth driven greatly by dark spirits due to interest in premium and craft spirits. Strong seasonality favoring fall and winter months and limited consumption among women will likely hinder growth. Brands should connect to consumers with authentic stories of heritage and introduce dark spirits to new consumers with cocktail creation." - Megan Hambleton, Beverage Analyst

### This report looks at the following areas:

- Spirits and cocktails come second to beer and wine
- Lack of female drinkers hinders total market growth
- Seasonality shifts limit year-round consumption
- Definition

This Report includes dark spirits sold for home preparation and/or consumption. The following types of dark spirits are analyzed:

- Whiskey/whisky, which includes the following subsegments: American Kentucky bourbon, American Tennessee whiskey, other American whiskeys (straight, blended, malt, or non-malt), American rye whiskey, Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey, Canadian whisky, White whiskey/moonshine, flavored whiskey
- Brandy and cognac, as well as Armagnac.
- The forecast data displayed in this Report is for the entire distilled spirits category. Market size and forecast data includes both white/light and dark rums.

Mintel consumer data focuses on consumer attitudes and behaviors toward dark rum only. Attitudes and behaviors toward white/light spirits will be included in Mintel's White Spirits – US, December 2017. This Report excludes the following categories, which will be covered in Mintel's White Spirits – US, December 2017:

- Vodka
- Rum
- Tequila
- Gin.

Dollar sales data in this Report includes all distilled spirits segments (dark and white), while volume sales data solely covers dark spirits. This includes only the whiskey/whisky and brandy segments. Total rum is included in the volume sales data for white spirits in Mintel's White Spirits – US, December 2017 Report, as subsegments (white/light, dark/black, golden/amber, spiced) could not be separated.

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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