

San Diego County Distillery Timeline

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Businesses in this timeline include distilleries who produce hard liquor, AKA spirits, and winegrowers who produce brandy. Also included are rectifiers which further process products purchased from distilleries by adding flavoring, color, and packaging under their own label. Stills used to produce solely for home consumption must be licensed by the State of California Alcohol Beverage Control, so not all licensed businesses in this list are open to the public or retail their product.

Historical Note: Evidence for distilleries operating in San Diego before this timeline is scarce. The bulk of hard liquor available in San Diego until Prohibition came from European, East Coast, and northern California distilleries. During Prohibition (1921-1933) with the proximity of legal and cheap alcohol in Mexico, there was little need to risk getting caught with a still when smuggling and bootlegging appeared to lower risk and required less upfront investment.

2006

Chuparosa Vineyards granted winegrower license, added still license in 2021.

Paradise Distillery in Vista filed incorporation papers but never opened and dissolved by 2010.

2007

Eagle's Nest Winery granted winegrower's license, added still license in 2016.

2008

Ballast Point Spirits was launched as part of Ballast Point Brewing Co. became **Cutwater Spirits** in 2016 and sold to AB InBev in 2019.

2010

619 Spirits founded as wholesaler/importer before granted a distiller license in 2018.

2011

Kill Devil Spirit Company claimed to be first licensed distillery in San Diego (Spring Valley) since Prohibition. No ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) license was found to support the claim. Fictitious Business Name statement filed in 2013 by A&R Distillery for this name and name claimed by Mackay LLC in 2015. May be affiliated with Distillers Club (2018.)

2012

Henebery Spirits incorporated, licensed as wholesaler 2013, tasting room in Vista 2016.

Manzanita Distilling Distillers granted still and manufacturer licenses in Santee, renamed Twisted Manzanita Spirits in 2014, ceased operations by 2017.

San Diego Distilling Company filed for incorporation in Lakeside but never opened. Not to be confused with San Diego Distilling Company that opened in Spring Valley in 2014.

SDCA Distilling LLC was founded and opened as Malahat Spirits in 2013.

2013

Brass Hammer Distillery formed LLC, no evidence of actual operation or distiller license.

BNS Brewing & Distilling granted licenses for distilled spirits manufacturer and still in Santee.

Distiller license autorevoked in 2016 although the brewery portion continued operation.

DS Property Development filed for LLC for the purpose of opening a distillery (see Oceanside Distillers in 2017.)

Liberty Call Distilling incorporated, opened in 2014 in Spring Valley, moved to San Diego in 2020.

Malahat Spirits opened in San Diego with their distillery license under SDCA Distilling, LLC.

Old Julian Distillery formed LLC in Ramona, no evidence of actual operation although related winery license canceled in 2019. (Successor business, Old Julian Vineyards & Winery, licensed a brandy still in 2020.)

Point Loma Brewing & Distilling filed for incorporation with both Washougal WA and La Jolla CA addresses. no evidence of ABC licenses to start operation.

Seven Caves Spirits filed for LLC, opened tasting room in 2017.

Skubic Enterprises formed LLC to open **Old Harbor Distilling** in 2014.

--**Henebery** began wholesale operations in La Jolla.

2014

Battle Born Distillery formed LLC, no evidence of actual operation, LLC cancelled 2017.

California Spirits opened in San Marcos and distilled on contract for others as well as their own product as well as winegrower and brewery licenses.

Harbor Farm and Vineyard licensed as a winegrower with still in Ramona, no evidence of actual operation and license canceled in 2020.

High Lonesome Distillers filed for ABC license as **Crafty Distilling** in Santee, withdrawn 2015.

Local Spirits created under **High Lonesome Distillers'** LLC, no ABC licenses issued. See Crafty Distilling in Santee (2014).

Mackay Distillers granted still and manufacturer licenses in San Diego, does contract work for several rectifiers, moved to San Marcos 2020.

Old Harbor Distilling granted still and distillers licenses for San Diego's East Village neighborhood.

San Diego Distillery granted still and distillers license in Spring Valley, moved nearby in 2018.

San Diego Sunshine formed LLC to operate distillery in Ramona.

Springs Distilling formed LLC, no evidence of actual operation.

Twisted Manzanita Spirits renamed as Manzanita Spirits, closed 2017.
--**Liberty Call Distilling** opened in Spring Valley, moved to San Diego in 2020.

2015

Apex Global Imports granted a rectifier license in El Cajon.
Copper Collar Distillery began operations in Santee, temporarily closed for move in 2022.
Detroit City Distillery (LLC formed in Michigan in 2012) filed for planned operation in California, no evidence of actual operation.
Fox Trail Distillery is another name under **High Lonesome**, no ABC.
Lost & Found Distillery incorporated to become Misadventure & Co. in 2019.
Mike Curphy Distillery granted LLC, does not have ABC licenses for still and distiller until 2018.
Perfect Soul Whiskey planned to open in San Marcos, no evidence of actual operation, all licenses autorevoked by 2020.
San Diego Sunshine Craft Spirits granted still and distillers license for Ramona.
Santee Saloon filed as LLC, will take over distilling operations at BNS in 2018.
You & Yours Distilling originally filed for an LLC as **His & Hers Distilling Company** but amended registration the same year. Notable as woman-owned/managed distillery. Closed 2024.
--**Crafty Distilling/High Lonesome Distillers** withdrew their ABC license for operation in Santee.

2016

87 Spirits formed from Lost Art Distilling with the addition of a new partner.
Cutwater Spirits was the new name chosen for Ballast Point Spirits in split from Ballast Point during its sale to Constellation Brands. Sold to AB InBev in 2019.
Generous Spirits filed for LLC, does not open under this name (see **117° West** in 2017.)
JPB Rockin Rum (AKA JP Blackheart Rockin Rum) granted rectifier license for Vista, autorevoked 2022.
Pacific Coast Spirits granted still and craft distiller licenses in San Marcos, changed location to Carlsbad, before opening in Oceanside in 2019.
Swinford Spirits is licensed as a manufacturer and distiller, changed locations 2018 then closed 2018.
Thorn Spirits (part of Thorn Brewing) registered as an LLC. **Rebru and Longball Bev** are associated with this.
Wicked Snakes Winery granted winegrower and still license in Escondido.
Zoe Blue Distilling filed LLC with intent to manufacture, no evidence of actual operation.
--**BNS Brewing & Distilling** licenses for distilled spirits and still autorevoked. Distilling reactivated in 2020 under Santee Saloon, LLC.
--**Eagle's Nest Winery** granted licensed for a still in addition to their winegrower license, all autorevoked in 2021.
--**Fruit Craft** opened tasting room in Hillcrest neighborhood with expanded production space in Carlsbad.
--**Henebery Spirits** opened tasting room in Vista.
--**San Diego Sunshine** opened to public in Ramona with specialty spirits.

2017

117° West Spirits Distilling opened tasting room in Vista (associated names that are not operational are Barrel Swell Distilling and Generous Spirits.)

Oceanside Distillers opened with **Steinmetz** and **Shadow Ridge Distillers** (contract) brands.

Leander Distilling filed LLC paperwork for Vista, canceled in 2020.

Los Californios Spirits granted still and distiller license in Ramona. Carnivale Brewing is listed at the same address.

Shadow Ridge Spirits filed for an LLC and distilled at Oceanside Distillers.

Skrewball Spirits filed for an LLC and granted still and distiller licenses for San Marcos location, becomes an importer only in 2020.

Storyhouse Spirits granted still, importer and distiller license for San Diego's East Village area under ownership of Highway 101 Spirits, Inc. Temporarily closed 2019, reopened 2020(?)

--**Generous Spirits** filed for fictitious business names Barrel Swell Distilling and **117° West Distilling**. [117° West Spirits will be used on further references.]

--**Pacific Coast Spirits** withdrew still and craft distiller licenses in San Marcos and filed for same for a Carlsbad location, withdrawn same year.

--**Perfect Soul Whiskey** manufacturer license canceled.

--**Seven Caves** opened tasting room in Miramar district of San Diego.

--**Twisted Manzanita Spirits** license autorevoked.

--**You & Yours Distilling** granted still and distiller licenses in San Diego's East Village, closed 2024.

2018

Distillers Club filed Fictitious Business Name, granted ABC license 2019.

Dukats Distilling filed for LLC in Escondido, amended to Poway location under Standard Deviation, a marketing company, but no evidence it was a distillery or rectifier.

Los Californios Spirits granted still and craft distiller licenses for Ramona location. Note CarniVale Brewing (never opened) is listed at same address. Mail order only business.

Mike Curphy Distillery granted ABC licenses for still and craft distiller, autorevoked 2023.

Rebru Spirits LLC was formed to distill unused wort from local breweries to divert from the waste stream by the owner of Thorn Brewing. Dissolved in 2022.

--**619 Spirits** added a license for a still and distiller license on Lincoln Ave. in San Diego. This expanded on their 2010 incorporation as an import/wholesale business.

--**Leander Distilling** applied for ABC craft distiller license, withdrawn in 2020.

--**Oceanside Distillers** canceled distilled spirits manufacturer portion of license, leaving still and distiller portions active.

--**Pacific Coast Spirits** incorporated with intention to open a distillery in Oceanside.

--**San Diego Distillery** moved to share space with Liberty Call Distilling.

--**San Diego Sunshine** released their first whiskey.

--**Santee Saloon** took over distilling operations at BNS in Santee.

--**Shadow Ridge Spirits** was granted Distilled Spirits Wholesaler license by ABC to sell their brand.

--**Skrewball Spirits** released the first bottles of their peanut butter flavored whiskey.

--**Swinford Spirits** licenses are cancelled after moving to new location.

--Zoe Blue Distilling ceased.

2019

Barn Brewing and Distilling (established brewery in 2014) expanded operations with distilling license, ceased distilling 2022.

Big Joe's Distillery filed incorporation papers. Suspended in 2020. No evidence of operation.

Bolt Brewery adds Spirits to its existing brewing business operations under the Solid Gold LLC. ABC license canceled in 2021.

Costa Azul Winery applied for a license for distilled spirits manufacturer and still to operate under the business name **Solterra Winery** in Encinitas. Withdrawn in 2020.

Deaf Shepherd Distilling filed an LLC for San Diego. Distilled at Liberty Call Distillery in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood. Never opened.

First Light Craft Spirits filed LLC and contract to distill product with San Diego Distillery.

Helm's Brewing applied for still and craft distiller's license, still marked as pending (2024) although business sold in 2018 and no longer exists.

High Lonesome Distillers became **Crafty Distilling** in Santee, license withdrawn 2015.

Loil Distillery established LLC, no evidence of actual operation, terminated 2022.

Misadventure & Co. licensed by **Lost & Found Distillery, Inc.** in Vista. Noted for distilling expired baked goods into vodka. Business changed hands in 2022.

RKR Bottling granted rectifier and importer licenses for El Cajon location.

Spirits of San Diego granted rectifier license, no evidence of operation, canceled 2022.

--**California Spirits** revised operations to become a winegrower, rectifier, importer, and packager for others rather than distiller with move to Poway. Also filed for brewery license which was withdrawn the same year.

--**Cutwater Spirits** sold to AB InBev.

--**Distillers' Club** granted license for still and craft distiller, linked to Kettner Distillery and Kill Devil Spirit Company, license canceled 2020.

--**Old Julian Distillery's** related winery license canceled. (New business, Old Julian Vineyards & Winery, licensed a brandy still in 2020.)

--**Pacific Coast Spirits** opened in Oceanside on third try.

--**Perfect Soul Whiskey** craft distiller license was autorevoked by ABC.

--**Storyhouse Spirits** opened in San Diego's East Village neighborhood and closed temporarily a few months later to reopen in 2020(?)

2020

Note: With the closures of normal business due to COVID-19, distillers were allowed to remain open and encouraged to produce hand sanitizer. Sanitizer was not only made from their own ingredient supply but created from unfinished product from beer breweries which were forced to shut down operations. This diverted 100s of gallons from the waste stream since it could not be stored to be finished later.

IRS Cocktails incorporated to distill vodka and package in canned cocktails, applied for still and distiller's license in 2023, moved from Vista to Oceanside 2024.

Kettner Distillery's previous business partnership in Distiller's Club granted ABC licenses for still, craft distiller, and importer.

Longball Bev licensed for winegrower, still, importer and craft distiller business by Thorn Spirits, LLC in San Diego Barrio Logan district.

Old Julian Vineyards & Winery (successor to Old Julian Distillery) licensed a brandy still in Ramona.

Rocky Point Brewery and Distillery claimed as fictitious name by Belching Beaver Brewery.

--**87 Spirits** partnership changed with continued wholesaler license and move to Chula Vista.

--**Big Joe's Distillery** incorporation papers suspended.

--**BNS Brewing & Distilling** reactivated distilling license under Santee Saloon, LLC.

--**Costa Azul Winery, Inc/Solterra Winery** withdrew distilled spirits manufacturer application but kept still application (pending as of 2024-05).

--**Cutwater Spirits** is sold to ABInBev.

--**Distiller's Club** license cancelled and transferred to Kettner Distillery.

--**Dukat's Distilling** moved to Poway but no ABC license.

--**First Light Craft Spirits** released coffee-flavored whiskey through local retailers.

--**Harbor Farm and Vineyard licenses** canceled.

--**Liberty Call Distilling** moved to Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego.

--**Mackay Distillers** moved to San Marcos.

--**Perfect Soul Whiskey** still license was autorevoked by ABC.

--**Skrewball Spirits** moved to San Diego and cancelled still and distiller's licenses, converted to Importer license when majority of shares sold to Pernod Ricard.

--**Storyhouse Spirits** reopened after redesign of business plan.

2021

19th Hole Spirits granted rectifier's license to modify contracted spirits in Spring Valley.

Cantina Zerilli obtained a rectifier permit in El Cajon.

Cask & Coast Spirits formed LLC to promote bourbon distilled for them under contract.

Gelato Love granted rectifier's license in Carlsbad.

People's Spirit incorporated to manufacture and distribute distilled spirits renamed as **Fierce and Kind, LTD** in 2022.

The Swan filed for a still and craft distiller license, has still on site but not in use.

-- **Chuparosa Vineyards** added license for still to existing winegrower license (2006.)

--**Eagle's Nest Winery** licenses autorevoked.

2022

Boochcraft (kombucha brewer) added still and distiller license to their existing brewing license.

Fierce & Kind Spirits succeeded People's Spirit. Began fundraising for manufacture and distribution company with philanthropic purpose, no ABC licenses.

Juneshine (kombucha brewery) granted rectifier license for San Diego location and applied for additional license in Poway.

Longball Bev licensed for still and distiller as part of Thorn Spirits/Thorn Brewing.

Son's & Dotters granted rectifier and importer license for Sorrento Valley location.

Square House Premium Cocktails registered LLC to do business in San Diego.

--**Barn Brewing and Distilling** canceled still and distiller licenses

--**California Spirits** withdrew license applications for brewing and distilling in San Marcos.

Unknown when these license applications were filed.

--**Copper Collar Distillery** announced plans to close due to rent increase and move.

--**Longball Bev** withdrew importer portion of ABC license.

--**Los Californios** added importer permit to their license.

--**Misadventure & Co.** sold to new ownership while retaining original license for still and distillery.

--**Old Harbor** rumored to be adding a location in San Diego's Seaport Village.

--**Rebru Spirits LLC** terminated; parent company Thorn Spirits continued with Longball Bev.

--**Spirits of San Diego** rectifier license canceled.

2023

Belching Beaver Brewery filed for winegrower, still and craft distiller license at Oceanside and Vista locations.

Kings & Convicts granted rectifier license in addition to their brewery license.

Solterra Winery granted still license for brandy for Encinitas location.

Yacubelli LLC (winegrower license) forms limited liability company, granted rectifier license for Vista.

-- **Belching Beaver** submitted ABC license application for winegrower, still and craft distiller license for their Oceanside location, switched application to Vista.

--**Solterra Winery (AKA Costa Azul Winery)** granted brandy manufacturer and still license for Encinitas.

--**IRS Cocktails** applied for still and distiller license in Vista.

--**Mike Curphy Distillery's** ABC license autorevoked.

--**Skrewball Whiskey** sold majority share to Pernod Ricard, a French spirits conglomerate.

--**Square House** granted rectifier, winegrower, and importer license.

2024

--**117° West Spirits** moved into space formerly occupied by Laguna Beer Co. in Vista's CoLab collaborative space with some changes in partnership.

--**IRS Cocktails** granted a new license reflecting earlier move of operations to Oceanside.

--**You & Yours** Distilling closed.

Importers/Wholesalers/Unclear Status--not included above:

87 Spirits changed from corporation to LLC as a distilled spirits wholesaler. Their brand is Pier View Gin.

California Fruit Wine (est. 2009) became **Fruit Craft Fermenting & Distilling** in expansion in Vista. Winegrower and event licenses only.

Clever Fox LLC formed wholesale business as Last Light Spirits Co. based in Atascadero in 2020, LLC amended in 2020 to become Hardback Spirits in Oceanside then renamed to Clever Fox with ABC license in 2022.)

Fasel Shenstone, LLC. (2013) no evidence of actual operation.

Lost Art Distilling registered as a corporation in Oceanside, becomes 87 Spirits later to do business as Stoke Distilling and Pier View gin brand.

Seaborn Cocktails filed an LLC for “beverage and clothing sales” based in Carlsbad. Liquor for cocktails is contracted out.

SouthNorte Spirits in development for canned cocktails as part of SouthNorte Beer (founded in Coronado, moved to San Jose.)

Stoke Distilling included in **87 Spirits** wholesale business with **Lost Arts Distilling** (no ABC. FBN only? In Oceanside.

Tipsy Dog was founded in 2021 to sell canned cocktails through distilled wholesaler license (pending 2023-04.)

Trust Me Vodka, originally based in Murrieta, moved to Carlsbad with products distilled under contract by others in 2015.

U4RIK launched their grape-based vodka, added imported tequila later. Various locations occupied throughout the years, at one point seems to have been contracted to, or shared space with, Mackay Distilling in San Marcos. Unable to locate licenses.

--**U4RIK** opened tasting room and distillery in San Marcos with rentable event space 2016.

Villager Beverages, LLC founded in 2022 under Wings & Arrows LLC/JLJH Management LLC (founded 2015) with canned beverages product.

Bolt Brewery applied for license as Bolt Brewery & Spirits, license is for a bar, not a distilling operation. Does not open.

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