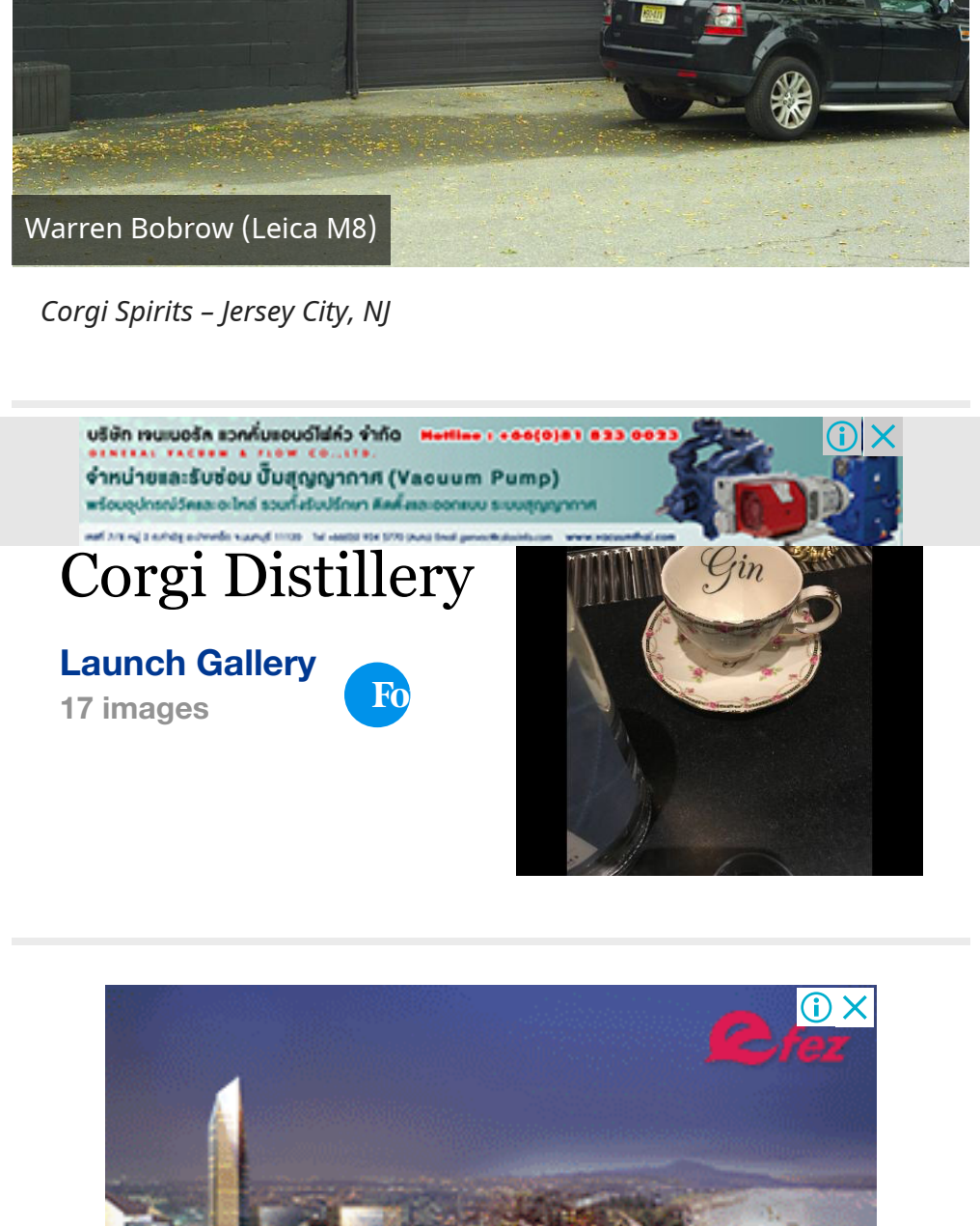


Corgi Spirits: A Burst of Modern Gin from New Jersey

 **Warren Bobrow,** CONTRIBUTOR

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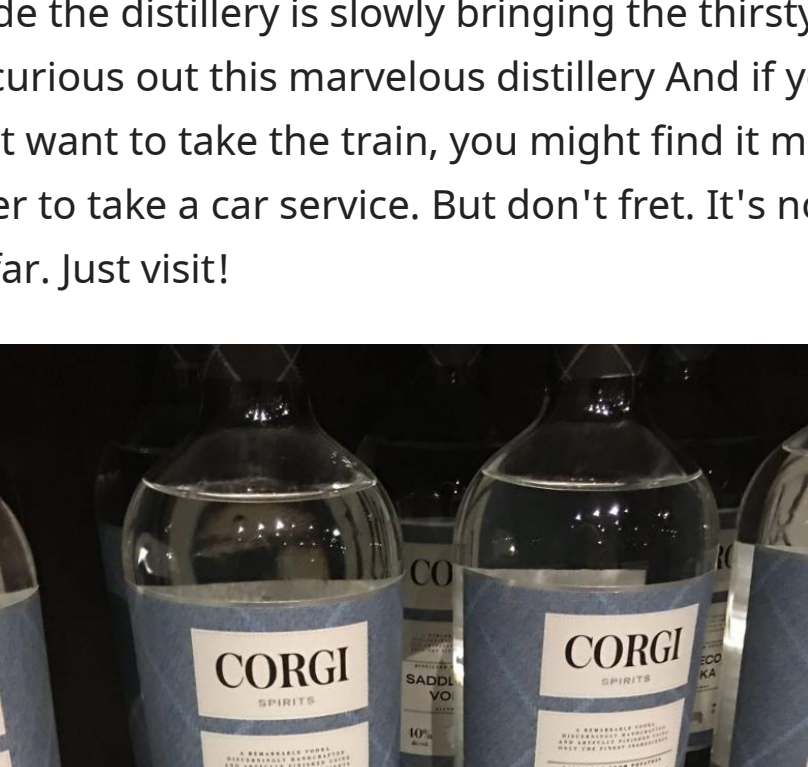
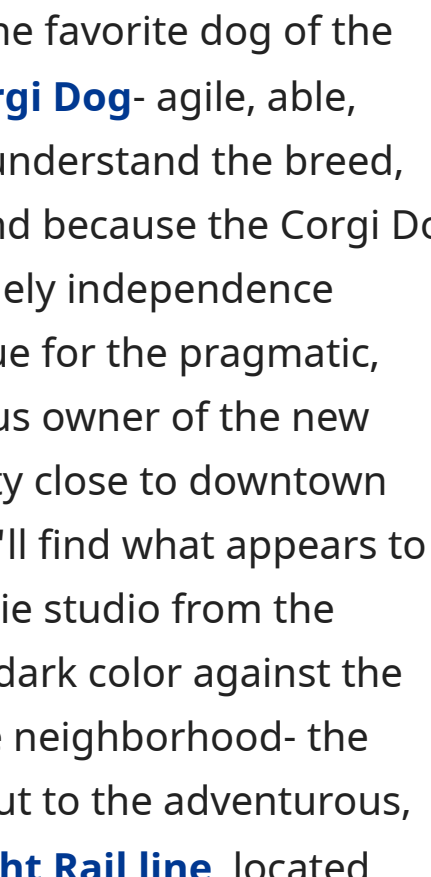
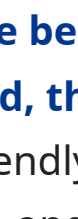
Warren Bobrow (Leica M8)

Corgi Spirits – Jersey City, NJ

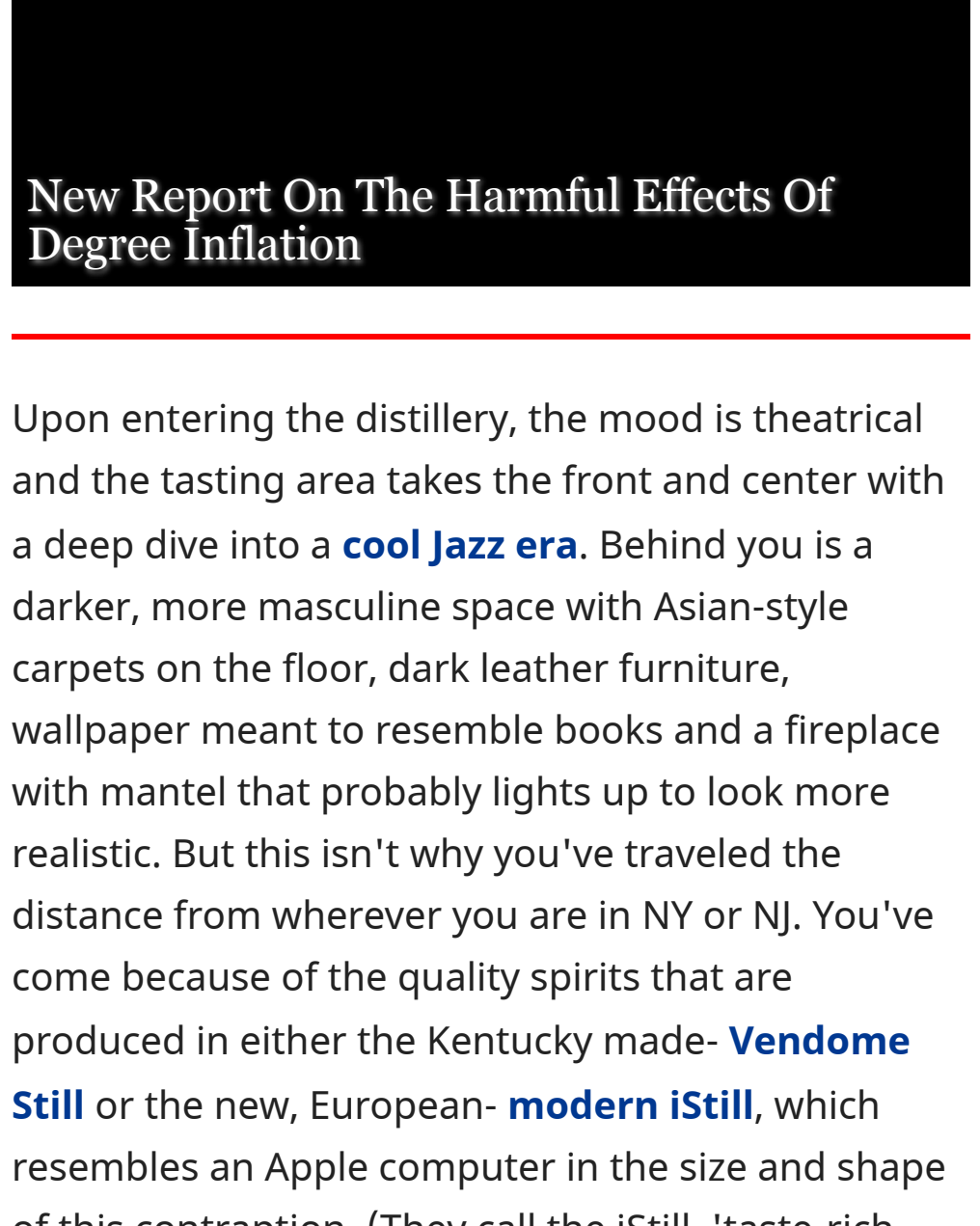
Corgi Distillery

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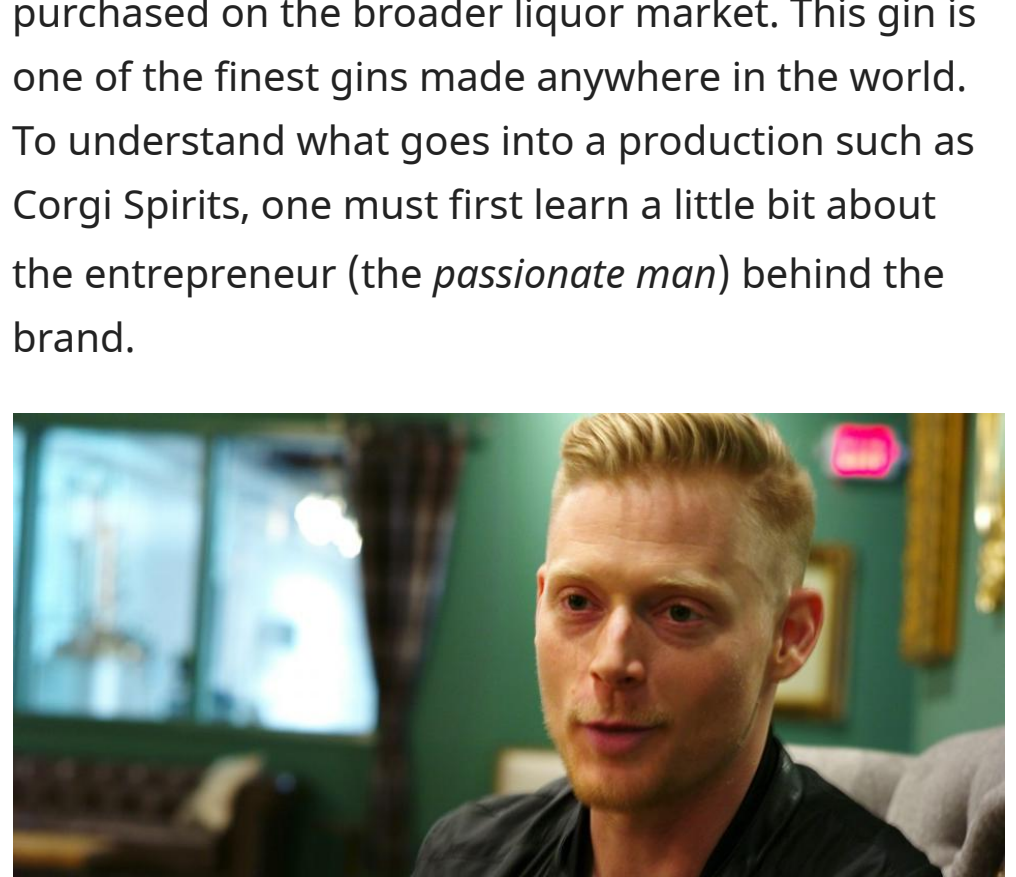
A most venerable beast, the favorite dog of the **Queen of England, the Corgi Dog**- agile, able, agreeable and friendly. To understand the breed, one must have an open mind because the Corgi Dog is a fast learner- but extremely independence minded. The same holds true for the pragmatic, friendly and highly ambitious owner of the new Corgi distillery located pretty close to downtown Jersey City. Once there, you'll find what appears to be, from the outside: a movie studio from the 1920's. Painted a strikingly dark color against the red brick warehouses in the neighborhood- the warehouse/distillery calls out to the adventurous, thirsty drinker. The new **Light Rail line**, located beside the distillery is slowly bringing the thirsty and the curious out this marvelous distillery And if you don't want to take the train, you might find it may be easier to take a car service. But don't fret. It's not too far. Just visit!



Warren Bobrow (Leica M8)

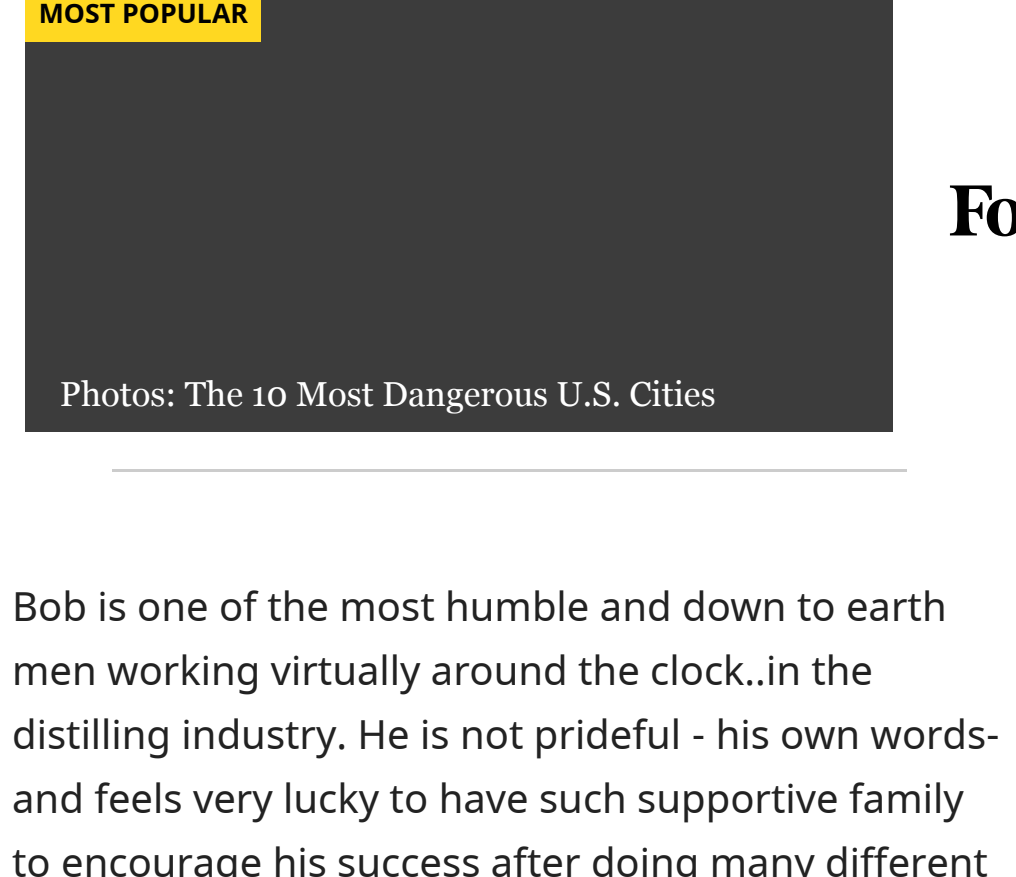
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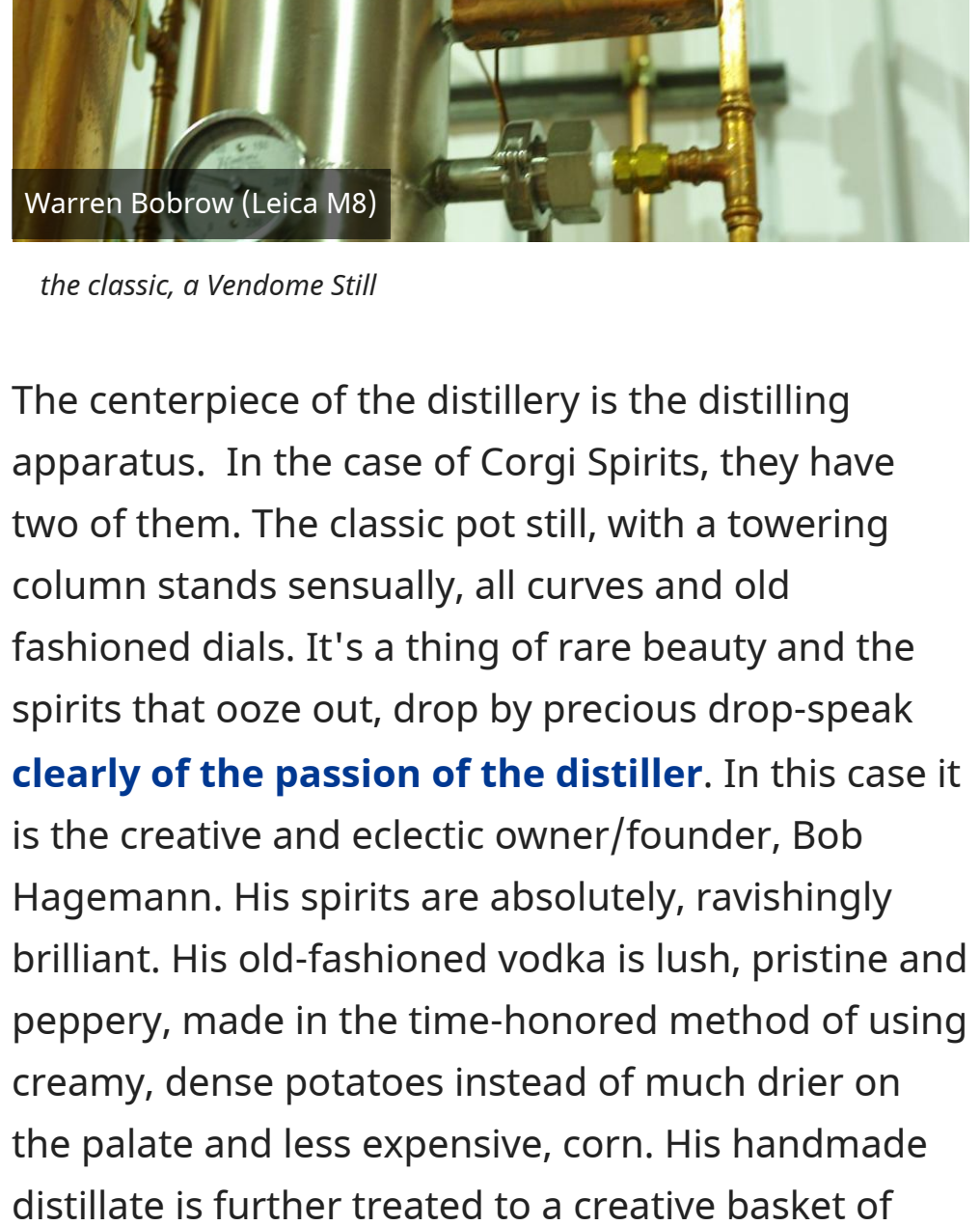
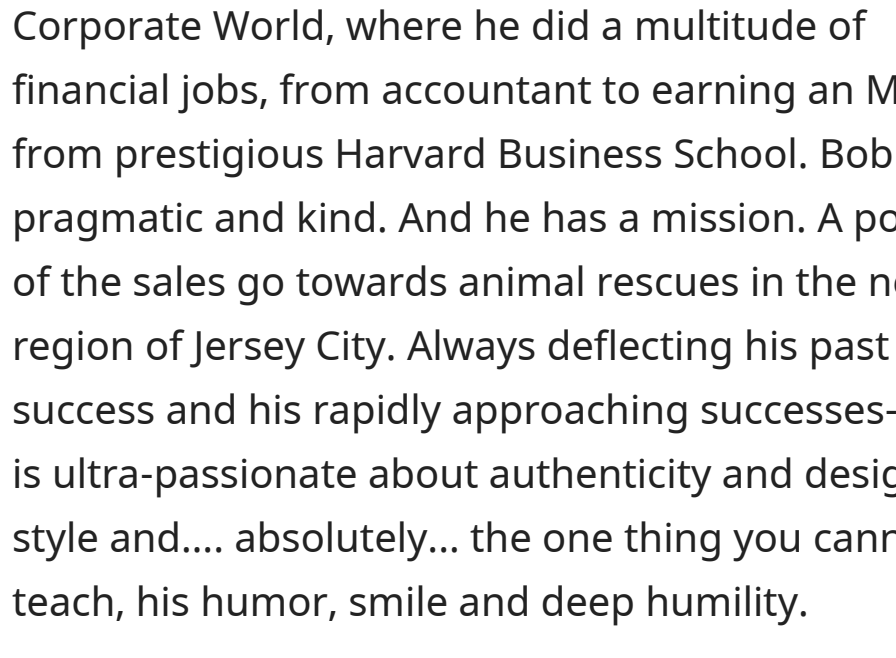
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Upon entering the distillery, the mood is theatrical and the tasting area takes the front and center with a deep dive into a **cool Jazz era**. Behind you is a darker, more masculine space with Asian-style carpets on the floor, dark leather furniture, wallpaper meant to resemble books and a fireplace with mantel that probably lights up to look more realistic. But this isn't why you've traveled the distance from wherever you are in NY or NJ. You've come because of the quality spirits that are produced in either the Kentucky made- **Vendome Still** or the new, European- **modern iStill**, which resembles an Apple computer in the size and shape of this contraption. (They call the iStill, 'taste-rich distilling')... But as we all know, fancy equipment doesn't necessarily make fine spirits- but worry not. The spirits that are carefully distilled from these gleaming vessels are absolutely world class. They certainly are unlike anything that is being made in NJ right now, and certainly as fine of a gin that can be purchased on the broader liquor market. This gin is one of the finest gins made anywhere in the world. To understand what goes into a production such as Corgi Spirits, one must first learn a little bit about the entrepreneur (the *passionate man*) behind the brand.



Bob Hagemann, Entrepreneur, Distiller, Mixologist, Bon Vivere (one) [+]

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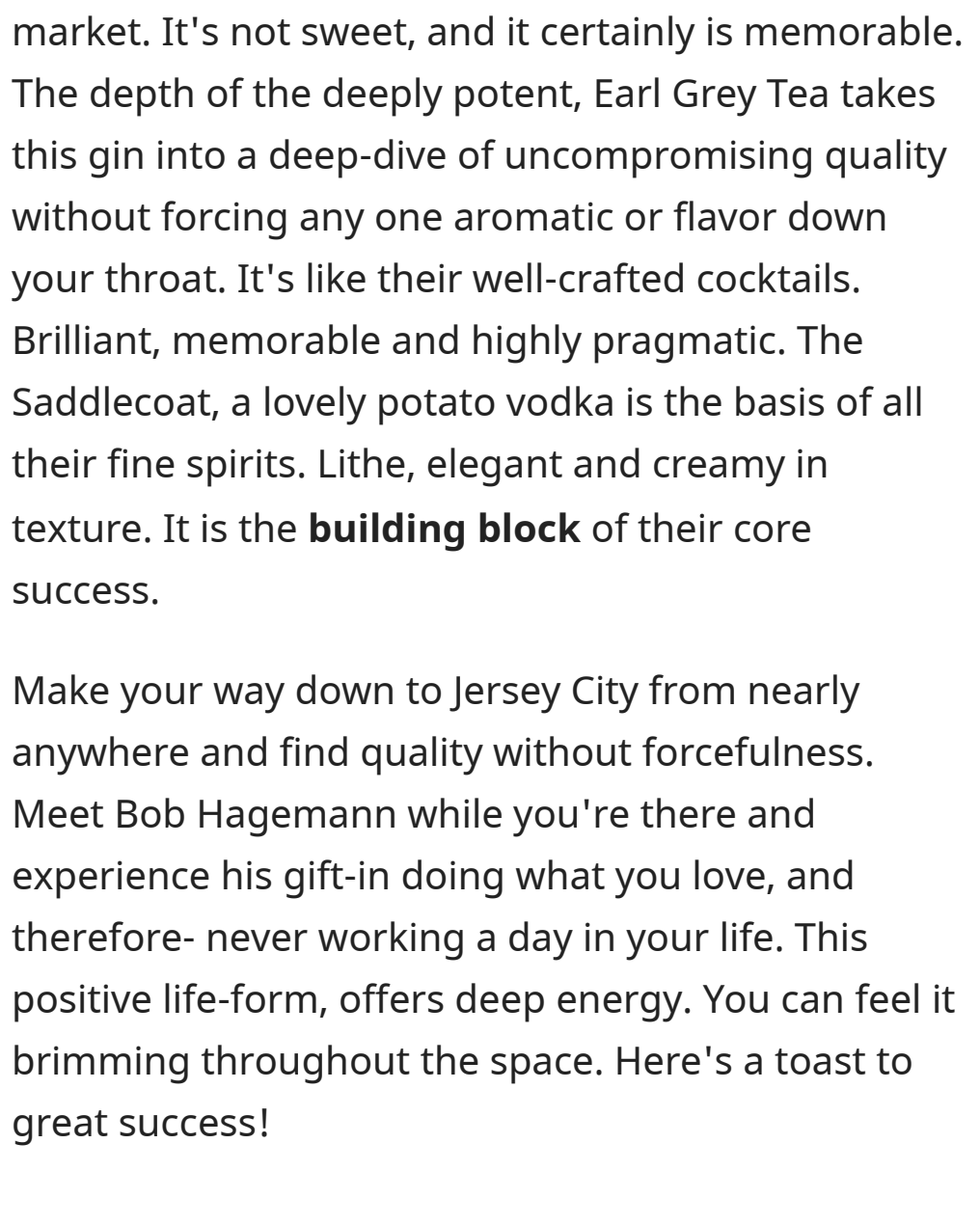


Warren Bobrow (Leica M8)

the classic, a Vendome Still

The centerpiece of the distillery is the distilling apparatus. In the case of Corgi Spirits, they have two of them. The classic pot still, with a towering column stands sensually, all curves and old fashioned dials. It's a thing of rare beauty and the spirits that ooze out, drop by precious drop-speak **clearly of the passion of the distiller**. In this case it is the creative and eclectic owner/founder, Bob Hagemann. His spirits are absolutely, ravishingly brilliant. His old-fashioned vodka is lush, pristine and peppery, made in the time-honored method of using creamy, dense potatoes instead of much drier on the palate and less expensive, corn. His handmade distillate is further treated to a creative basket of English countryside influenced aromatics. Coriander features into the mix as does *of course* the classic juniper berry and their house-blend of culinary herbs and spices. Each sip coats the mouth and offer memories, rather than just pure inebriation. Drinking is a social endeavor- so the massive hand-crafted bar, outfitted with purse hooks and electric sockets (nice touch) are located just below the broad expanse of the bar top for the comfort of their guests. Ice is 100% as important as each of the parts of the distillery with an exceptional **Kold Draft cuber**. This ice comes perfectly formed, crystal clear in scope for each of the delicious drinks on the voluminous, highly creative bar menu. Nearly everything is made in- house from the syrups to the tinctures to the spirits that form the backbone of each hand-crafted cocktail, expertly mixed by the passionate bar manager for Corgi Spirits, Holly Jones.

The tea flavors bring the London Dry form of gin into a Botanical Wonderland that just has be sipped! Preferably out of an antique-style tea cup!



Warren Bobrow (iPhone 6s)

Corgi Cuppa (Holly Jones-Corgi Distilling Bar Manager/hand behind) [+]

Tasting Notes: **Pembroke Gin**- Exotic coriander on the nose gives way to brighter elements of the British style- crisp-classic juniper berry, bursts of intensely flavored red fruits and powdered minerals, orange marmalade, milk thistle, elder-flower and a scraping of spicy pink peppercorns. Luscious stuff, screaming for a perfectly crafted Pembroke Gin and Tonic- served here with any of the seven tonic-like mixers. (You can also enjoy these eclectic G&T's with any of their three brilliantly distilled spirits). Their **Earl Grey Gin** is a cacophony of the classic London Dry style gin, woven with a tangle of exotic aromatics and comes colored like the burnished hue of authentic, Earl Grey Tea. Bright, citrus aromatics rise to the surface of the glass, coating the inside of your nose, offering more than the expected jolt from the expected flavor of the juniper berries. This is magnificent Gin, completely unlike anything on the market. It's not sweet, and it certainly is memorable. The depth of the deeply potent, Earl Grey Tea takes this gin into a deep-dive of uncompromising quality without forcing any one aromatic or flavor down your throat. It's like their well-crafted cocktails. Brilliant, memorable and highly pragmatic. The Saddlecoat, a lovely potato vodka is the basis of all their fine spirits. Lithe, elegant and creamy in texture. It is the **building block** of their core success.

Make your way down to Jersey City from nearly anywhere and find quality without forcefulness. Meet Bob Hagemann while you're there and experience his gift-in doing what you love, and therefore- never working a day in your life. This positive life-form, offers deep energy. You can feel it brimming throughout the space. Here's a toast to great success!

Warren M. Bobrow: 5x Author/Barman/Cannabis Alchemist

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