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## **GSN REVIEW: BURNING MAST RUM**

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Kirk and Sweeney, the flagship Dominican rum produced by 3 Badge Beverage Corporation, recently announced the debut of its new Burning Mast rum. Burning Mast is barrel finished in red pepper barrels which imbue the liquid inside with red hot flavors for an entirely unique profile.

"We love a little spice here at 3 Badge and are thrilled to elevate Kirk and Sweeney with such an unexpected flavor profile," noted August Sebastiani, president of 3 Badge Beverage Corporation. "We took the traditional Kirk and Sweeney Reserva rum production recipe and turned it up with these red pepper barrels, creating something enticingly different."

### 3 BADGE BEVERAGE CORPORATION

The rum adheres to strict regulations in order to be called “Dominican Rum”. The process begins with hand harvested, high quality sugarcane processed into grade three Blackstrap Molasses for fermentation and distillation. The rum is then aged in a variety of American and French oak barrels, with the distiller conducting various steps of dumping, blending and re-barreling through the years. Burning Mast is a blend of 81% Kirk and Sweeney Reserva rum and 19% Kirk and Sweeney Reserva rum finished in red pepper barrels for 11-19 days.

The distinctive vintage shaped bottle pays homage to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when rum-running was prevalent. An intricately silkscreened design wraps around the circumference of the bottle with a prominent heat meter located on the front. Illustrating the St. Elmo’s Fire phenomenon, the Kirk and Sweeney schooner is featured in the dark of night with burning masts, navigating its way through a storm. The front label glows with a gradient meant to mimic those flames.

Kirk and Sweeney is named for a wooden schooner, best known for smuggling rum from the Caribbean to the Northeast during the early years of Prohibition. Rum Runners took to the high seas under glowing masts caused by St. Elmo’s fire, a rare phenomenon that gives the appearance of burning masts during thunderstorms, a truly extraordinary event and the inspiration for the name.

**GSN’s Remarks:** This is an amazing rum. Having tried many pepper infused spirits over the years, we thought we knew what to expect from this one. But, instead of the heat overwhelming the rum, it compliments it, adding a warmth with no harsh burn. The initial taste is sweet and round, what you’d expect from an aged rum. But, after a few seconds, the fire kicks in, lending a hot experience that is on a level with fresh ginger. The warmth lasts for several minutes, but never overwhelms. This is a perfect rum for experimentation in cocktails. Everything from ginger ale highballs to tiki drinks. Try adding some to your next Pina Colada. Burning Mast is killer with pineapple and coconut. Kudos to Kirk & Sweeney for a stellar product! **GSN Rating: A+++**

**KIRK AND SWEENEY / BURNING MAST RUM**