



Take Flight

A great bourbon list is a thing of beauty, but self-limiting when one is forced to sample all the exotic small-batch beauties out there two fingers at a time. Enter the Bourbon Flight. Modeled after the wine flight concept, a bourbon flight serves up three smaller pours, side by side. There's no finer way to polish your tasting skills and inform your palate than comparing styles. **Local Three's** (localthree.com) menu of more than 60 selections is a fertile place to begin. Bartender Kevin

Ryan will happily curate a broad range of options: maybe a Rebel Yell, Four Roses Single Barrel and a Jefferson's Reserve to start? Pricing is dependent on selections, but the combinations are limitless. Notes Ryan, "Think big; we can arrange flights by distillery, style, price, you name it." Bourbon flights have also been spotted on the menu at **Sprig Restaurant** (sprigrestaurant.com) in Decatur; seems like this idea is taking off, and that's news worth toasting. —*Katie Kelly Bell*



BOOZE BUZZ

Bubble, Bubble

Originally crafted for Alexander, Czar of Russia, **Cristal** (champagne-roederer.com) is the Champagne of Kings, and as one of the most expensive bottles in the world, it has a lot to prove. The 2005 vintage lives up to the history. Made from the estate's finest hand-picked, biodynamically farmed fruit, winemaker Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon tells us this vintage has "very aromatically open qualities and fine acidity and is best enjoyed with lobster." —*KKB*

TEAM SPIRIT

High Hopes

Is the dream behind the High Liquors line bold ambition, or hubris?



High Liquors' line believes in diversity.

It takes chutzpah to market yourself as the "World's Best" or "World's First" anything. So we approached Atlanta-based **High Liquors'** (highliquors.com) claim as "The World's First Full Line of Ultra Premium Spirits" with a healthy dose of skepticism. Best friends since their days at the University of Kentucky, former Atlantan Chris Lawson and current ATL resident Brad Wright launched the line (which includes rum, tequila, whiskey and vodka) here in early fall, and it can be found in hot spots like The Havana Club and Opera, as well as dozens of retailers.

"In order to stand out, you have to be different," says Wright. "Our approach of taste-testing from all over the world to form a full line had never been done in the Ultra Premium category. Patron sells tequila, Grey Goose sells vodka, and they're pigeonholed by what their distilleries can produce. We have the freedom of finding who does it best, and the good fortune of putting that in our bottles." —*Bret Love*