

# 15 Best Japanese Whiskies of 2023 to Sip or Mix in Cocktails

**J**apanese whisky has long suffered an identity crisis, with little formal regulation to help define it. Japanese producers imported whisky from anywhere in the world to blend and bottle as a “product of Japan”—without disclosing that not all the liquid was actually made in the country.

“Japanese whiskies have gained international acclaim for good reason—including craftsmanship, consistency, quality ingredients, and attention to detail,” says Amir Babayoff, bar director at [Ophelia Rooftop Lounge](#). “The meticulous craftsmanship behind Suntory Toki yields a round and sweet blend with a refreshing citrus character and a spicy finish, making it perfect for sipping neat, on the rocks, or as the star ingredient in sophisticated cocktails such as a Penicillin or Gold Rush.”