

## Gin Part 1

Gin is an extremely popular spirit yet many drinkers do not know the origins or the formulation of their drink of choice.

Gin's earliest ancestor was a spirit made from juniper berries by Italian monks who used the spirit to dissolve various herbs for medicinal purposes. From there British soldiers in the seventeenth century who were stationed in Holland started to drink an alcoholic beverage known as jenever. Gin really took off when William of Orange who later became King William III, when he banned all French spirits (brandy) from England once the war had started. Vodka was unknown and whiskey was only consumed in Scotland and Ireland so, Gin was left as the drink of choice.

The botanicals involved are various but the main list is this: Juniper, Coriander seed, Angelica root, Orange and lemon peel, Orris root, Licorice, Almond, Cassia Bark, Cinnamon, Cubeb berries and Grains of Paradise.

It is the precise combination of these various botanicals that gives each individual Gin its own flavour.

In the next section I will talk about varieties within the category itself.