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Life
SECTION D

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Now appearing:
Penn Jillette
at home, 8D



Destinations & Diversions

FOOD & WINE

What's red, white and blue — and clear?



USA TODAY

100-proof:
Temequila, made
in the USA.

J.B. Wagoner was just looking for some landscaping for his property in the hills near Temecula, Calif. But eight years later, that planting has resulted in Temequila (tem-eh-KEE-la), a rare, American-made version of tequila.

The plants that happened to grow well in the Temecula climate were blue agave, used in Mexico's famed spirit. Wagoner's version uses his plants and mature ones from Mexico. For legal reasons he can't call his product tequila, so Temequila (\$58 retail) is labeled as agave distilled spirit. It will be available in California from Skyrocket Distillers Nov. 12. A national rollout is planned soon after.

It's 100-proof (most tequilas are around 80) and forgoes the usual aging in oak barrels to preserve the "unadulterated" taste of the agave, Wagoner says. "You can sip it in a snifter, like a fine liqueur."

— Jerry Shriver

Cheat: Temequila