

lonely planet  
food

LONELY PLANET'S

# GLOBAL DISTILLERY TOUR

A stylized illustration featuring a large, textured orange circular label with a scalloped edge. The label contains the text 'LONELY PLANET'S' in a small, black, sans-serif font, and 'GLOBAL DISTILLERY TOUR' in a large, white, serif font. The background is a solid blue color. Behind the label, there are stylized yellow and orange shapes representing distillery equipment: a tall bottle on the left, a shorter bottle in the center, and a cocktail glass on the right with a straw and a lemon slice. The entire illustration has a subtle, textured pattern.



## AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND



### PUHOI ORGANIC DISTILLERY

9 Saleyards Rd, Puhoi, Auckland; [www.spirits.net.nz](http://www.spirits.net.nz);  
+64 21 678 013

- ◆ Distillery
- ◆ Shop
- ◆ Tours



If you're after a genuinely boutique experience, this distillery should top your list. You'd be in good company – Prince William has visited – but tastings are strictly by appointment. There's no tour as such, but this facility is so tiny you see it all by default. 'We are one of the smallest distilleries in the world,' says proprietor Alex Kirichuck. 'And perhaps the only one with a medical doctor on staff.' He is referring to wife Iryna, who began distilling

medicinal tonics after Alex – a Ukrainian nuclear engineer – had to visit Chernobyl. They moved to New Zealand in 2002, branching out into spirits.

The distillery is fed by water from an 8000-year-old aquifer, 221 metres deep, and uses organic ingredients; Alex even grows botanicals and keeps bees. Puhoi also claims to be the first distillery in New Zealand to use 100% solar energy and gravity-flow technology. The couple claim their unique 'adaptogenic' distilling method produces a beverage that will not leave you drunk or hung over.

Home to a beautiful double wood whisky and vodka made from Sauvignon Blanc, you must try Puhoi's oak-rested vodka, Starka, and hear Alex explain the traditional Polish origins.