

Magic Numbers: 3 TRES TEQUILA

THOUGH IT'S NAMED FOR ITS TRIO of expressions, there are other numbers that tell the story of this tequila brand founded by Keli'I Heen and Mark Becker. Take, for instance, 1924: That's the year that Casa Don Roberto (NOM 1437) was established. Today it's the historic—albeit state-of-the-art—distillery in which master distiller Stella Anguiano crafts 3 Tres. Or take six: That's the minimum age of the agaves used in production, whose piñas are oven-cooked for 24 hours before they're crushed, fermented with well water in stainless steel, and distilled twice in copper and stainless-steel pots. Six is also the number of months that 3 Tres Reposado rests in oak, while the Añejo ages for 14 months. And though there are no plans to change the brand name to 4 Cuatro, an Extra Añejo is slated for launch in 2025.



Also in the works this year: a collaboration with General Cigars, whereby 3 Tres will produce a limited-edition Reposado designed to pair with a namesake cigar, whose tobacco will age in the brand's own barrels. Where there's smoke, there's fire, and 3 Tres is certainly on a hot streak.



3 Tres Tequila Blanco, Mexico (\$43/750-mL bottle)

Notes of vanilla, marshmallow, clay, and Brazil nut plus fine salinity are the highlights of this layered spirit, whose delicate entry mirrors its nose of vanilla, blueberry, and bright earth tones. Anise adds a creamy texture on the lengthy finish. **94** —*Meridith May*



3 Tres Tequila Reposado, Mexico (\$45/750-mL bottle)

Woodsy and spiced, an exotic array of clove, sarsaparilla, and hazelnut reveals itself on the first sip. Cinnamon, clove, and lemon verbena drape over the palate, making for a satisfying ending. **95** —*M.M.*



3 Tres Tequila Añejo, Mexico (\$75/750-mL bottle)

Subdued notes of toasted cocoa bean and sun tea offer an ethereal quality with a streak of minerality. The spirit's bold nature is revealed on the midpalate, where black pepper, cigar leaf, and charred cedar create a crescendo of intensity. **94** —*M.M.*

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