



# INFUSE & IMBIBE

Kurt Cyr makes his own gin with foraged juniper berries and a two-part infusion process.

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**W**hen Kurt Cyr first purchased an old Indio Elks Lodge with three other Palm Springs makers, he discovered juniper berries growing across the 10-acre Mountain Center land. Then 2015, he had just taught himself how to cure charcuterie to complement his love for prosciutto.

So, when he saw the fruit on the sprawling property now transformed into a workshop and retreat space called Makerville, he immediately realized it's essential to the creation of one of his favorite spirits: gin.

Always the consummate experimenter, Cyr began foraging the berries and taught himself how to infuse the liquor.

The process is essentially two-fold: Dried juniper berries are ground up, then combined with coriander and placed in a satchel for the first two-day infusion of vodka.

Then, Cyr puts together a blend of botanicals and spices for a second infusion that ultimately determines flavor profile. A greener, fresher style might include fennel, chamomile, herb de Provence, cardamom, et cetera, while a spicier version can comprise cloves, cassia buds, grains of paradise, clove or black pepper.

Finally, the spirit is barrel-aged to finish off the style.

"I didn't realize how rough they were until they spent some time in the barrel," Cyr explains. "It softens and rounds and melds all the flavors."

The result? A handcrafted, small-batch gin perfect for spring soirees. 🍸

## MAKE YOUR OWN GIN



Join DESERT Adventure Club and the creative souls of Makerville to learn how to infuse gin from foraged juniper berries, botanicals and spices. This workshop will teach you how to create seasonal variations from a basic recipe, and you'll head home with your own satchels of infusion-ready herb blends!

April 7 | 10 a.m. to noon | \$55

To become a member and purchase tickets for the event, sign up for our newsletter at [desertsun.com/desertadventureclub](https://desertsun.com/desertadventureclub).