



Benjamin Mélin-Jones
Monsieur Rhum Agricole

A fourth-generation member of the Clément family of Martinique, Benjamin Mélin- Jones was raised with rum in his blood. His mother used to reward him for a job well done with sips of aged V.S.O.P. Rhum.

As far as he can remember, a few bottles of the family rum were always preciously kept at home. The opposite of industrial rum distilled from molasses, Rhum Agricole begins with the finest selection of sugarcane, pressed to extract the finest and most aromatic fresh sugarcane juice, to craft glorious Rhum Agricole. As these “exceptional rums” made by his French Caribbean cousins were not available in the U.S., they were carefully guarded and for special guests only.

Ben never gave up his idea of importing and sharing Rhum Clément with American rum connoisseurs. After a few years in the wine business, he finally turned his childhood dreams onto reality. In 2005, Ben successfully re-launched Rhum Clément and established the importing and marketing company, Clément USA Inc.

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Facing enthusiasm from American rum drinkers, Clément USA Inc. assisted to launch Rhum J.M. from Martinique in 2008, and Rhum Damoiseau, the leading producer of Rhum Agricole in Guadeloupe, in 2013. Being behind the collaboration of these fine family brands of Rhum Agricole, Clément USA Inc. is now able to offer the full spectrum of French Rhum Agricole crafted following the traditional rituals of the French Caribbean culture. It is the choice style of rum for those who appreciate a terroir-driven spirit and enjoy an authentic product of origin.

It is a lifelong fascination and innate passion for Rhum Agricole that has made Ben one the world's leading experts on Rhum Agricole. He travels extensively educating people of the trade and enthusiasts of all spirits about rum and specifically about Rhum Agricole, and is often quoted and featured in a variety of publications and media outlets about the rise of Rhum Agricole in today's beverage trends.

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