

# THE VODKA WORLD'S GUARDIAN ANGEL

By Michael Tulipan

**I**n the vodka world, the name Maurice Kanbar inspires immense respect. Considered the father of modern-day vodka distilling in the United States, Kanbar is most famous for his creation of the groundbreaking SKYY Vodka, which reinvented the market for premium vodka. SKYY was a runaway success after launching in 1992 and eventually was sold for \$300 million to Campari Group.

Rarely does a day pass without Kanbar thinking of a way to improve or fix something. He holds 40 patents on various products and, as it turned out, was far from done with vodka. He continued to tinker until he settled on a recipe that would allow him to make the perfect version of a Martini, his favorite cocktail.

The result was Blue Angel, inspired by the blue sky and 'angelic clouds' in his hometown of San Francisco. Blue Angel is California through and through, made in the Bay Area with only California grains and water purified through reverse osmosis. The vodka is distilled six times and then filtered four times through a proprietary process to create a noticeable smoothness. The vodka is also gluten-free, in keeping with the times.



Launched in 2018, this ultra-premium vodka quickly won a following and was awarded double gold at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. You have to admire a company whose vision statement is to “make the world a little better, one Martini at a time.” Kanbar says that “Because of its robust aromatics and lush mouthfeel, Blue Angel makes the best Martinis in the world.”

Kanbar is a noted philanthropist and has made it the mission of Blue Angel to give back to society. To date, Blue Angel has donated to many local San Francisco charities, including the SF-Marin Food Bank, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and SF Film Festival, as well as the United States Bartenders' Guild local and national levels. The work of an angel, indeed.

