



PUERTO RICO RUM FEST & CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

12:20 PM

Registration

Brief: Registration for Rum Conference.

12:30 PM

Sweets, spices, and rum from the Caribbean

Brief: Join Dameian Williams, a Barbados native and brand ambassador for West Indies Rum Distillery, as he takes you on a sensory journey filled with sweets, spices, and Caribbean rums.

DAMEAIN WILLIAMS - Tasting Room

1:30 PM

Pitorro: The Clandestine Spirit of Puerto Rico — History, Culture, and Resistance

Brief: Often called Ron Caña, Ron Cañita, Lágrima de Monte, or Lágrima de Mangle, pitorro has been Puerto Rico's most famous illegal moonshine for centuries. In this seminar, researcher Jose Manuel Gonzalez shares insights from his academic thesis on the origins, production methods, and cultural significance of this clandestine spirit. Attendees will explore how pitorro evolved in remote, unlicensed stills across Puerto Rico and why it remains deeply tied to holiday traditions and national identity. This session offers a rare historical and sociocultural look at the island's most rebellious rum heritage.

HECTOR QUINONES - DR. JOSÉ MANUEL GONZALEZ CRUZ
 DR. LORENZO SALICETI-PIAZZA - Seminar Room

2:30 PM

New and Untouched 2026:

Try new expressions made in Puerto Rico

Brief: Join key members of rum distilleries as they unfold on new and untouched rum expressions they are about to launch.

FRANCISCO FONSECA - LIZA CORDERO - Seminar Room

3:30 PM

Tropical vs. Temperate: How Climate Shapes Aging in Caribbean Rum and Scotch Whisky

Brief: This seminar explores how climate dramatically influences the maturation of spirits in the Caribbean and Scotland. Using real-world examples, the panel will compare evaporation rates, barrel interaction, flavor development, and aging timelines between tropical and temperate environments. Speakers include Christian Frontanes of Bacardi, Pablo Perez (The Whiskey Rican), and a guest expert from a global spirits company. With Bacardi's unique connection to Dewar's, attendees will gain rare insight into how the same parent company approaches maturation across two very different climates and spirit traditions.

TROY ARQUIZA - CHRISTIAN FRONTANES - PABLO PEREZ @WHISKEYRICAN Seminar Room

4:30 PM

Legacy in Their Hands: Master Blenders Shaping the Future of Puerto Rican Rooted Rum

Brief: The future of Puerto Rican rum is being shaped by hands that deeply understand its past. "Legacy in Their Hands: Master Blenders Shaping the Future of Puerto Rican Rooted Rum" explores how master blenders—guardians of tradition, technique, and memory—are redefining what it means to craft a rum rooted in Puerto Rico. Their work blends inherited knowledge, constant innovation, and a unique sensitivity to the land, the cane, and time itself.

Through their decisions, these artisans preserve a centuries-old legacy and propel a new era of rum, where Puerto Rican identity is expressed with greater depth, complexity, and purpose. This session opens a window into their vision, their processes, and the cultural impact they are shaping for generations to come.

NATALLY ANDERSSON - LIZA CORDERO - LUZ M. IRIZARRY - JENNIFER SERRANO Seminar Room - Powered by: **WOMEN LEADING RUM**

5:30 PM

Ron Barceló Imperial Rare Blends

Brief: Join renowned Global Brand Ambassador Otto Flores for an exclusive master class exploring the exceptional world of Ron Barceló Imperial Rare Blends. This seminar will offer guests a unique opportunity to discover the craftsmanship, aging process, and artistry behind one of the most prestigious expressions from the Ron Barceló portfolio.

During the session, attendees will gain insight into the philosophy behind the Imperial Rare Blends collection, a series of limited and carefully curated rums that showcase the brand's dedication to innovation, heritage, and master blending.

This master class is particularly special as it celebrates the recent arrival of Ron Barceló Imperial Rare Blends to Puerto Rico, marking an exciting moment for rum enthusiasts and collectors on the island.

OTTO FLORES - Seminar Room.



GUEST SPEAKERS



NATALLY ANDERSSON



PABLO PÉREZ @WHISKEYRICAN



TROY ARQUIZA



LUZ M. IRIZARRY



DR. LORENZO SALICETI-PIAZZA



HECTOR QUINONES



DR. JOSÉ MANUEL GONZÁLEZ



LIZA CORDERO



FRANCISCO FONSECA



CHRISTIAN FRONTANES



DAMEAIN WILLIAMS



JENNIFER SERRANO



OTTO FLORES

PLAZA DE
MERCADO CREATIVO
RUM BAZAAR

