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## What a Hooch!

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After getting their first taste of Limoncello five years ago in Italy, Tom Kiefer and Linda Losey left the country not only with some "fine" artwork for their walls at home, but with a dream of opening their own mini-distillery and a determination to replicate that recipe.

"We got lost in Italy and happened to find this restaurant where the chef didn't speak English and we didn't speak Italian," Losey remembers. "We clicked using hand signals and pointing on the menu. It was a great time and they kept trying to get us to buy the artwork on the walls. After our third bottle of wine, he brought out the Limoncello... we left with two bottles of it and the artwork off the walls."

When they returned home, Losey and Kiefer could not find anything on the market that came close to the Limoncello they tasted in Italy. Losey got to work and replicated the recipe, but a blind taste test was in order to be sure it tasted just as good as the bottle from Italy.

After 23 shots of Limoncello to compare Losey's recipe to others on the market, hers won out in a blind taste test every time. All that was left now was to find the space to open a distillery.

### A Hidden Treasure



West Virginia was the perfect setting for Losey and Kiefer's farm distillery. The pair found a 12-acre parcel of land in Charles Town, W. Va., with an old farm cabin atop a hill surrounded by woods. "The Craig's List ad said it was all run down and we did find this incredibly dilapidated, but great energy place," Losey says. "We bought it and worked on it while working full-time."

As the pair got to work restoring the cabin and building their distillery, Bloomery SweetShine, they learned the farm is steeped in history. "The man I bought it from was a logger and did a good job in keeping these 200-year-old oak trees alive and honored the land," Losey

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