

NEED TO KNOW

Hawaiian vodka

When the talk turns to vodka, Moscow, not Maui, probably comes to mind. But beginning this spring, Hawaii's very own vodka distillery will begin offering tours and tastings. Ocean Vodka, about a half-hour south of the Kahului airport, is building a solar-powered plant that will produce what the company says is "the only vodka in the world distilled from organic sugar cane," which grows on 80 acres of the slopes of Haleakala volcano. The water comes from mineral-rich deposits 3,000 feet beneath the Big Island. After taking a tour, visitors will be invited to relax in the Martini Garden. The drinks will feature fresh, locally grown ingredients such as lavender, passion fruit and pineapple. The distillery opens in mid-April. Info: oceanvodka.com

