



## **DR. ROBERT BIRNECKER**

Master Distiller & Chief Executive Officer

Robert is one of America's top distilling experts, an internationally renowned consultant, and the creator of the most unique spirits in America. An Austrian native, Robert grew up helping his grandparents at their award-winning distillery and winery and later received numerous certificates from Austria's leading university program for distilling technology, Höhere Bundeslehranstalt und Bundesamt für Wein- und Obstbau Klosterneuburg, including one for the sensory aspects of distilled spirits. He also honed his skills working with Europe's foremost spirits expert, Dr. Klaus Hagmann, developing fermentation techniques for craft distilleries. Robert's technical expertise and creativity have garnered KOVAL national and international spirits awards, and Whisky Magazine recently named KOVAL Distillery one of the top 100 distilleries in the world to visit. Not only has Robert taught distilling techniques to over 1000 people in the last 4 years in his own workshops, he is also a distilling instructor at the Siebel Institute in Chicago. Robert has also helped set up over 40 craft distilleries in the US and Canada. Before focusing on distilling, Robert was the Deputy Press Secretary for the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC. His decision to distill was born out of his love of traditional crafts and the pride of a small family business, both of which exemplify the real American dream.