

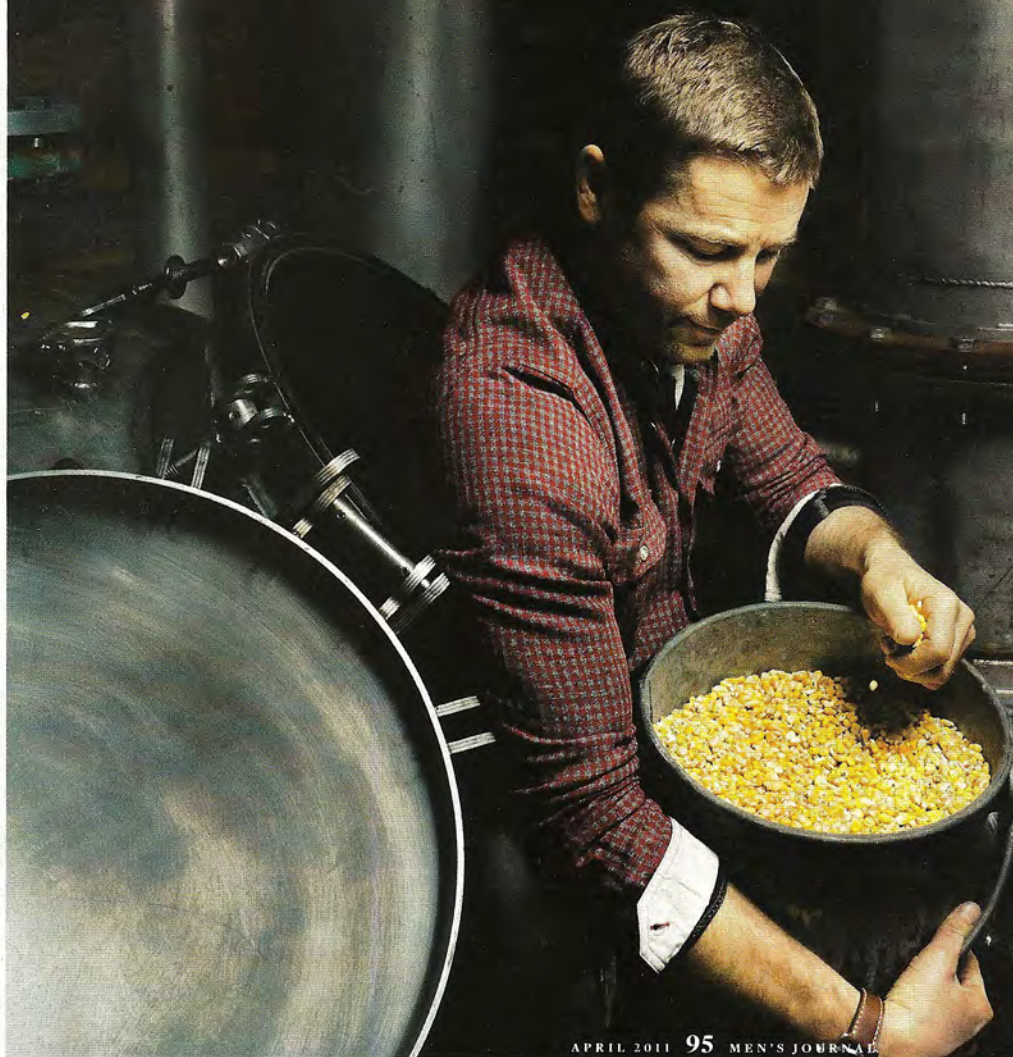
## CHRIS WELD

*Berkshire Mountain Distillers*

Chris Weld used to spend his days stitching up bullet wounds as a physician's assistant in the emergency rooms of the San Francisco Bay Area's rougher regions. Now he stresses out about booze: cutting down and charring the cherrywood he uses to age

his corn whiskey, finding the right molasses for his Ragged Mountain Rum, persuading people to stop thinking of gin as a summers-only drink. About a decade ago, Weld, 45, and his wife bought a run-down apple orchard in the Berkshires, just east of the Hudson Valley. But instead of making only apple brandy, as they'd planned, Weld started a whole line of spirits. Berkshire's rum is toasted caramel in a bottle; its whiskeys are spirited and suspiciously smooth; its gins will make you regret every vodka martini you've ever had. Weld has a soft spot for his Ethereal Gin: "I've had four stellar batches so far, but I'll make a bad batch eventually," he says. "And we'll end up heating the rickhouse with it."

Weld wears a shirt, \$240, and henley, \$140, both by RAG & BONE; watch by VICTORINOX SWISS ARMY, \$525.



Associate fashion editor:  
BRYNN CARHART  
Set design by  
WADE & STRAUSS  
Grooming by LUANN CLAPS  
Production by  
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On-location production by  
BART PROCACCI  
Casting by ANYA WOLFE  
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