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**SUFFERING SELFIES** Actor Ryan Reynolds (kind of) made an appearance

## Berry good time with the gin crowd

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Wine and spirits merchants Norman Goodfellows hosted their World Gin Day event to celebrate the launch of the Italian gin Malfy Con Arancia at the Wanderers Club in Joburg on Thursday night.

The gin crowd are more enjoyable than those you meet at the wine clubs - everyone is cheerful and friendly.

It was cold outside, but one quickly forgot the chill when entering the room, where there were about 15 different gins to taste.

One of the first things I noticed was that everyone was lining up to pose with a not-so-present Hollywood A-list actor Ryan Reynolds at the

Aviation Gin booth.

Born of a partnership between a bartender and a mixologist, Aviation Gin is handcrafted in 100-case batches at the House Spirits Distillery in Portland, Oregon. In now classic New Western Dry Gin style, botanicals (not juniper) are the dominant flavour notes.

Reynolds bought a stake in the company to help it to become one of the new American classics, and it is now the best-selling gin brand in the US.

Another one that is going to be a favourite this summer is the new, delightfully refreshing variant of the Malfy range, Malfy Con Arancia. With every sip, it's literally like a botanical burst of flavour in your mouth.

If you're looking for a serious buzz, the new kid on the block in South

Africa, Brooklyn Gin, is one to consider. The bottle itself is a keeper.

Its super-premium status is largely due to the time and effort that goes into handcrafting each bottle and making one small batch at a time, using traditional artisan spirit-making methods.

Flavours include hand-cracked juniper berries and fresh, hand-cut citrus peel that releases essential oils and brings out the essence and complexity of the ingredients. It's a smooth gin that is fresh, complex and flavourful with a long, clean, sublime finish coupled with a bang.

I'm officially dumping the uptight wine events we have in Joburg.



**FRESH** Malfy Con Arancia is the perfect summer gin