

Adam von Gootkin

Global Innovator & Entrepreneur; Co-Founder & CEO of Highclere Castle Spirits

Adam von Gootkin is a globally recognized innovator and risk-taker who has revolutionized the spirits industry with his unique approach to traditional business principles. Carrying on his family's entrepreneurial legacy in the spirits industry, which began in the 1800s and continued through the prohibition era and into the present day, von Gootkin is the co-founder and CEO of Highclere Castle Spirits and the co-founder of Highclere Castle Cigar Co. A visionary in every sense of the word, von Gootkin has built an empire on foundations of authenticity and has re-written the rules for how organizations can spark innovation on the path to radical success.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), von Gootkin is a spirited presence on stage who uses his remarkable story of turning industries on their heads and pivoting his luxury gin brand during the pandemic to give audience members a shot in the arm and demonstrate how they can adopt a maverick mindset to innovate and develop solutions to the challenges their organizations face. Touching on themes of leadership, purpose, and customer-focus, he outlines his five proven strategies for responsibly building a brand that embodies the soul of its creators, takes customers on an emotional journey, and has the potential to change the world.

After successfully founding and building the award-winning Onyx Spirits Company — Connecticut's first distillery since prohibition and America's first ultra-premium moonshine — von Gootkin's next venture took him across the pond to the English countryside at Highclere Castle, recognized by fans worldwide as the home in the award-winning TV series and motion picture, *Downton Abbey*. There, he met the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, the castle's owners, and partnered with them to create Highclere Castle Cigar Co., which, in the few short years since its founding, has become recognized as one of the top cigars in the world. Following the rapid growth of the company, von Gootkin and his co-founders launched Highclere Castle Spirits — furthering the vision to create a portfolio of hyperauthentic prestige brands with deep roots. To date, Highclere Castle Gin has won more than 70 international spirit awards and the company reached a \$45 million valuation in under three years. An entrepreneur to his very core, von Gootkin previously co-founded the media production studio Onyx Soundlab and was a partner at iOnyx Group.

In addition to being the author of the book *Living Proof: Onyx Moonshine's Journey to Revive the American Spirit*, von Gootkin has appeared in many of the world's leading media outlets, including *Bloomberg*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *NBC*, and *ABC*. He is also an advisor to the Queen's Commonwealth Trust. In all of his entrepreneurial pursuits, von Gootkin shows an unrelenting commitment to building ultra-luxury global products rooted in uniqueness, authenticity, sustainability, and irreplaceable pedigree.