

**LIQUEURS,  
FRUIT BRANDY,  
AMARO &  
SPECIALTIES -  
INTERNATIONAL**



**The Bitter Truth**  
**E\*\*X\*\*R Bitter Liqueur**  
(France; Vision Wine & Spirits,  
Secaucus, NJ)  
30% abv.

Opaque, jet black color. First nosing passes discover very little as the aroma is closed for business, except for a subtle citrus peel fragrance that could best be described as "ethereal"; additional air contact stimulates some other faint aromas that are herbal, woody, fruity, earthy, but neither distinctive nor generous. Entry is mildly piquant, with low-flying astringent flavors of black currant, dates, figs, leafy herbs, rooty herbs; midpalate is moderate, yet deceptively potent in its herbal presence, but there's still not enough flavor impact in total to make a definitive statement. What could be perceived by some as elegance is viewed by me as being too meek, too cautious. That said, I certainly see quality here and believe that it's well made. I'd just like to see more animation.

*Spirit Journal September 2015:*

★★★/Recommended

