



# Home Winery and Sommelier

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## **Wine Making: The Steps It Takes**

Making wine is something that you can and should be doing. If you enjoy wines you'll enjoy making them yourself. Accomplishing this process is one that will please anyone who has a bit of creative energy and anyone that wants to really experience the process. The first step of making wine is to get the flavor of the fruit from within the fruit into your wine. You can use grapes or many other types of fruit, depending on what you would like the wine to taste like.

To extract the flavor, most commonly, the fruit is pressed. Most fruits, besides that of a citrus fruit can be pitted (if necessary) and pressed. But, there are other ways to get the fruit from the wine as well. For example, another option would be to use cold maceration. To do this, the fruit is first crushed and chopped. Then it is added to its fermentation vessel and all of the ingredients from the recipe that will be used such as the sugar and waters will be added. It must then be set aside for eight hours. Once pectin enzyme has been added and mixed well, the wine must be refrigerated for up to two days, no less than one. When it is brought up to room temperature, more ingredients are added and stirred in before the yeast is added.

There are other ways that the fruit that you plan to use in your wine making can have the fruit's flavor extracted including crushing, boiling, chopping and cutting. Pressing and even soaking the fruit can be used as well. When you select a method you will want to insure that your recipe is adjusted for that specific method. Some recipes are designed to work with a certain method of extraction to gain the type of flavor that is necessary.

## **Wine Making: Your First Fermentation**

During the process of making wine, you will need to ferment the wine several times. With each step there is a need to examine the wine and to take the appropriate action. No matter what type of recipe you are using, the goal will be to find the best fermentation period. Once you have gotten the fruit's flavor extracted from it, you can begin the first step of fermentation.

During this step, you'll add in additional ingredients to the fruit in order to create the flavor that you want and then ferment the mixture for three to ten days. The temperature for this fermentation step is important. Get it as close to 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit as possible.

During this step, you'll need to add sulfites to the mixture in order to keep bacteria from growing in the wine. It will also help with oxidation. To do this, dissolve Campden tablets or use a powdered potassium metabisulfite.

Next, you'll need to add in pectin enzymes which have several jobs. The most important is for it to remove the pectin that's found in fruits so that it does not spoil the wine. In addition to that, it also helps to begin the process of breaking down the wine by destroying cell walls. This should be added to the base after eight hours of resting from the time of the sulfite being added.

The next consideration is for the acid that's in the wine. It is important for the acid to be adjusted in such a way as will allow for the acid to be balanced depending on what the fruit needs. For example, some fruits are too acidic while others don't have enough. Your recipe will help you with this.

In addition to these, the recipe that you have will tell you the right amount of water, nutrients, and finally yeast that you need. You'll then need to place the mixture into the fermenting vessel to get started. During the first 3 days, there is a need for oxygen to be allowed in. Follow your recipes instructions for exacts.

## **Wine Making: Your Second Fermentation Cycle**

Once you have allowed your wine to ferment for several days, it will be time to take the next step in its making. During this process, you'll be adding in additional ingredients and to skim off the liquid from the pulp that remains. When you go through the wine making process, this second fermentation period will be critical. Ultimately, you'll want that period to last at least several weeks and it should be done at a temperature that's at 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, ten degrees lower than it was.

First get rid of the solids that remain in the wine making. Pour it through a funnel, then, into the second fermentation vessel that you are using. Insure that the less are also placed into the second vessel. But, before you can do this, you may ask, how long should you wait? You should start the transfer into the secondary vessel after the fermentation process has slowed to some degree.

Now, after you have transferred the mixture to the secondary vessel, you'll want to attach the appropriate air lock to the vessel. This is called a fermentation trap and it will fit to the mouth of the bottle you are using. It is important to keep as much of the air contact out of the transfer process as possible, which is no easy task. Your recipe may call for specific instructions on how to do this.

Now that you have moved it to the secondary vessel, it again needs time to ferment. While that fermentation will not be nearly as vigorous, it will still cause enough reaction to notice. You'll want to set it in a room for at least several days, but it is better if it is a couple of weeks. Leave it alone as long as you can, or as your recipe directs.

## **Wine Making: The Sediments And Racking**

Now that your wine is well on its way through the second fermentation, you'll have the benefit of being able to sit back and wait. This step in the process is no doubt going to be a long one and you'll be tempted to taste and make changes, but remember that the final flavor hasn't been decided yet. At this point, your wine is in a secondary vessel and is fermenting. After several weeks, though, its time for you to give it some help.

You'll need to siphon the wine off of the sediments that will regularly deposit in the wine. Every month or so during the few months, you'll need to pay close attention to your wine's color. By removing the lees or the sediment from the bottom of the wine, you are allowing for the impurities to come out and for nothing but the good stuff to be left inside.

To do this, you'll want to use a siphon. Remember that you don't want the air getting into the wine at this point. You should also use a clean and sanitary vessel for the movement. Once you have gotten the wine into the secondary container that it will sit in again, you'll need to reattach the fermentation trap to the bottle's neck. But, that's not all.

Although it's tempting not to pay enough attention, you need to. Every thirty days, come back and look at the wine again. If there are deposits that are fresh at the bottle's bottom, you'll need to go through this step yet again. You may need to do this several times; you may only need to do this twice. The length of time that it takes will also determine how often you need to remove these sediments. This is a step that shouldn't be avoided, though!

## **Wine Making: The Final Step**

The process of wine making is one that does take a considerable amount of time, there's no doubt about that. But, that doesn't mean that it isn't worth the wait because it very much so is. Once the wine has been racked or siphoned off to remove all of the sediment from it, it still needs at least three months to sit, if not longer to ferment. Now this time has gone by, its time to start thinking about bottling the wine. In order for the wine to be moved into its bottles, you do need to wait for the fermentation to stop and for the wine to become clear, which should happen on its own.

Once this happens, the next steps are easy. You'll need to siphon off the wine from the vessel it has been fermenting in and place it into the wine bottles you'll be using. Sterilization is important here and isn't something that you should skip or forget about doing. Once this has been done, the bottles need to be corked and completely sealed to keep out an air.

Now, your wine is still not done and it will take a considerable amount more of time. Once the bottles are filled, place them upright for at least three days, but its better if it is five. This allows for the proper reaction to happen. After this period, you'll be placing them on their sides to store them. Now, drop the fermentation temperature again. This time, go for 55 degrees. Your white wine needs to sit like this, mostly undisturbed for at least six months. Your red wines need a full year for improvement. If the wine isn't what you want it to be, another year or even more can be necessary.

While you had to wait a long time, the resulting wine will be wonderful.

## **Self Made Wine Labels**

Brewing home made wine is a real fun activity. And just as important as the making of wine is, labeling the product is as important. For one, it helps you classify the wine that you have made, so you can bring out that special wine on a special occasion. Secondly it can make the wine look authentic and very artistic and mature. Showing everyone that you are a perfectionist and that you look at the finer details with a keen eye, wine-labeling will also help you in locating the wine.

Wine labeling can be fun and informative to the maker as well as the admirer. In order to make it as informative as possible, you should think of a list of simple details of the wine that you have just made. For example, a name for the wine, the date that it was made or manufactured, the history of the wine, a brief description of the process and the ingredients that went into the making of the wine and so on and so forth. The idea is to have the basic information of the wine on the bottle so that the admirer knows what he or she is drinking. It gives a more authentic touch to the whole thing.

Now, you can make the labels either by hand or by using cheap and home based technology like a computer. Making it by hand is not a bad idea, but remember the idea here is to turn on the authentic look and feel. So you can use a computer with a printer (preferably a color printer), a decent graphics application, a pair of scissors and some gum. You can start by making a logo for your own brand of wine and then you can place the text material that contains all the details that we talked about earlier, justified according to your visual taste. This can be repeated for all the bottles of wine that you are planning to make, so that you have a well-stocked collection that looks classy in every sense of the word.

Making sure that the final product passes the quality testing of your guests and friends visually, is half the challenge won. Your friends and guests can pick out whatever wine they want to taste and enjoy, without being worried of taking the wrong bottle of wine from the already visually stunning collection of wine bottles in the wine rack.

Drinking the right wine is like reading a well-written book. The experience starts with the cover or the label. It then moves on to the content so the onus is on you to make sure that your efforts

should not stop in getting the taste right, but the bottling and in fact the whole package should deliver a rich experience.



## **Everything About "Water Of Life", Whiskey**

What does "water of life," "uisge-beatha," and "uisce beatha or fuisce" refers to? Unable to pronounce or articulate these words? Ok...let me give you a more common and easy to say word, Whiskey. Yes...all these words signify whiskey. Origin of whiskey dates back to early 14th century in Scotland. However, it is more popular almost throughout the world now. It is believed that taste of whiskey is almost the same as how it was earlier, that is, 14th century. The main reason for maintaining the same taste is because whiskey manufacturers believe in heritage. Due to this, they will go for the extra mile to get the same flavor, as it was centuries back.

Can you think of any one occasion without whiskey? Thinking...unable to find out, yes...whiskey has truly become a part of our lives. Go to any restaurant, you will definitely see a signboard saying "Bar, this way" or "Bar attached." Take weddings, ceremonies or for that matter, any occasion, you will definitely find whiskey. In weddings, you might have seen both bride and the bridegroom drinking whiskey. Have you ever thought why do they do this? It is to indicate a long lasting relationship. Do you want to become friends with someone? Simply serve them whisky.

What are the various other uses of whiskey? Let me list out a few. A party at your home or workplace, you serve whiskey to your friends and employees. You had a hard day at your workplace, I'm sure you will take a sip of whiskey to relax yourself.

Serve whiskey in combination with ice cubes and see, an exciting and exhilarating combination. A nickname for this combination is "whiskey on the rocks." Whiskey is considered to be a strong drink. When ice cubes are added to it, it helps in taking away some potent substance from it. Few variations of whiskey include Scottish whiskey, Wild Turkey, Irish whiskey, Welsh whiskey, and Jack Daniels. As whiskey originated in Scotland, Scottish whiskies are more popular throughout the world than any other brands. People in the States prefer Jack Daniels and goes well with Coke. Almost 90% of the restaurants and bars in the United States serve Jack Daniels.

Are you planning to buy and take home some whiskey? No need to search for a best store. Go directly to ABC stores and you will get one. However, if you are staying in states like California, go to the nearest grocery or a departmental store to grab one. According to a recent survey, majority of the population drink whiskey and it is a best seller.

There might be different types of alcohol; however, easy to locate and use is only whiskey. Just a sip of whiskey every day will make you feel and look fresh



## **Scotch - The Taste Begins Here!**

Ever noticed whenever there is a party or if you hear of a fun experience in a pub, where there is a lot of dance action the good old scotch is given the back seat by the young partygoers. It is always the well-known rum or vodka based cocktails or the plain mock tails or the bar tender's special concoctions made spontaneously at the time of the order; that are clear favorites nowadays. People have this notion that only sweet alcoholic drinks can give you that extra energy to go that extra mile or do that extra dance step that can impress that special someone. Well, scotch based cocktails can be sweet too!

What is being missed out here, is that scotch can be as important as a cocktail base as rum. How many of you out there know this fact? Partying trends suggest that mixing scotch with a sweetening additive like sugar or sugar-based syrups to make a cocktail is best left as an unheard of concept.

One fact that everybody who has walked this planet and tasted that strange tasting nectar from Scotland will agree on, is the unassuming potency of the drink (scotch). This drink if taken in tasteful measures can bring the party goes and ultimately the party itself to a crescendo that few drinks can match and remarkably so in a relatively short amount of time.

The next best complain would be that scotch is best tasted dry. That is without ice. Ever heard of a drink called 'Rusty Nail'? The making of this drink starts off, is with ice being filled to the brim of the glass. Then half an ounce of Drambuie is added along with one and a half ounce of scotch and finally, as a garnish, a lemon peel twist is added as beautification of the drink and also for the flavoring. This is not to be mistaken for an elderly or a back seat drink so to speak. This is an alcoholic beverage that is sure to give the young yuppies a reason to start experimenting with scotch and discover the true spirit of fine drinking.

Do not stop there, here are a couple of more reasons to start appreciating the 'old man's drink'.

Whiskey sour is a very popular drink that is enjoyed by all the classes and the masses of every generation. The magic ingredients that go into making this popular drink are two ounces of scotch, whiskey, juice squeezed out of half a lemon, one small cherry, half a table spoon of sugar and finally one half of a slice of lemon.

The next drink is designed ideally for the young crowd, who would like to gulp down a drink and get back to the dance floor as fast as possible. This drink is what you would call a quick fix. Use one ounce of scotch whiskey and three fourth of an ounce of vermouth, which is sweet. You now just stir the contents that have been premixed with ice cubes and then strain this into a cocktail glass. This is simple and is named simply - Rob Roy.



## **A Blue Labeled Gossip**

How would you react to the situation when one of your friends comes to you and say "Hey Buddy! Johnny Walker is discontinuing their costliest brand Blue Label and no one knows why"? People who really know their drink would just ignore the statement as if something really big as that has to happen, there will be a strong reason. Let us find out reasons as to why this brand is as precious as blue sapphire.

This blend is a rare masterpiece when compared to other whiskeys and it is a bit tough to get hold of a bottle due its value and uniqueness. But whatever is the case, none of this matters if you are a sipper and collector of fine spirits.

Sir John Walker's existence of over 200 years marked the birth of this blend. With young malts and grains blended together, this drink becomes a little mellower. Like some older whiskeys, this blend was to be reminiscent of the blends in the early 19th century.

To identify a master piece or a gem, you don't have to compulsorily see it in writing. Similarly, in the case of this blue blend, the label does not come with the age specified. This should not be mistaken for poor quality. There is a reason as to why the age of this product is not specified. One bottle of the brand in question contains over 16 different single malt blends and aged whiskeys and the age of the youngest whiskey added is still a mystery.

Now, let us get back to the gossip, i.e.; Blue Label being discontinued. This rumor in every way remains a rumor. It can be confirmed in capital, JOHNNY WALKER BLUE LABEL IS NOT GOING TO BE DISCONTINUED. The green and the Red might have enjoyed a huge amount of publicity but blue should not be mistaken for a slouch.

In this line up of the walker brand, blue is the costliest of the lot at 200\$ a bottle. The malts and grains added to this blend takes a long time to mature making it very easy to be sold out and run out of stock. The blue label and its counterparts can always be adjusted according to available stock.

Since the process of blending is a continual one, the blenders will enjoy a busy time for a long period, especially if the stock is over abundant. Running out of stock does not happen overnight. The budding and young malts become wise and old and are replaced with new fillings.

Scotland will continue to produce rare and fine scotch and Johnny Walker will remain to be a part of this wonderful game. You can sit back and relax now, this blend is still right there with us.



## **Bourbon - The Early Days**

There is no doubt that the Scottish were the certified leaders in Whiskey making and they produced the best drink on earth, but those were the earlier days and now these leaders are facing strong competition from the Americans. The American Whiskey also known as Bourbon whiskey was first made in Kentucky situated in East Central US.

The farmers and the folk of Georgetown in Kentucky were the privileged first to have seen the inaugural days of this beautiful drink. This was first introduced by a Baptist minister named Elijah Craig in the late years of the 18th Century. History tells us that Abraham Lincoln's father was actively involved in this process.

The secret of this trade was passed to the North Americans by the Europeans who migrated during the late days of the 18th century. This resulted in large-scale production of the Bourbon drink. The government passed the law to levy taxes on Whiskey and its sales, which resulted in the Whiskey Rebellion in 1791.

Tax evasion was the immediate answer for many to this problem and the best place they found for this act were the Kentucky Mountains where they could hide from the so-called tax collectors. This paved way for Kentucky to become the largest producer and distiller of Bourbon, today, producing eighty percent of the volume in North America. It was in 1758 and after a royal family from France that this drink was branded.

The French supported the Americans in their fight for independence from the British and as a tribute the newly developed lands in America were written in French. Kentucky lost the status of a separate state and was renamed Kentucky district of Virginia in 1758.

The business did not just stay in Kentucky but was expanded. The whiskeys were exported to New Orleans down the Ohio River. In 1789, the Mason County, Virginia, was forged by North Eastern and Limestone Counties.

Blending and brewing Scotch involves a lot of restrictions and regulations. This is the same with Bourbon but comparatively and arguably less. The ingredients include brew to be made

mandatory from 51% corn. Barley wheat and rye can be used to blend the product. Proof should read 80-160%.

This Kentucky gold is known for its sweet taste and soft texture, which increases with the percentage of corn present. The process of making this involves corn to be distilled in a continual still, and then be filled into casks made of oak for maturing for not less than two years. This whiskey is popular today for its taste, which would not have been possible without these regulations.

Did you know that there are no distilleries operating in Bourbon County, Kentucky and is a dry county with no liquor being legally served?



## **American Scotch Whiskey**

Once impudently immigrants like the Irish and Scottish people sought on settling on American soil they imparted into the country the methods of distilling their native beverage scotch whiskey. Discovering the untested indigenous materials from the natural habitat of their settlements. They were not accustomed these fresh finds, which in turn conducted a new approach in giving rise on the evolution of modern scotch, simply dubbed as whiskey. Nowadays whenever you chance some kindred between Irish whiskey and Scottish whiskey, and its today American version you would personify someone more advanced than the connoisseurs and experts.

The fuller, stronger and tastes sweeter detected in the whiskey of American is an outcome from deficiency of fume in the drying procedure of granulates that may or may not include corns. There are six distinct classes which American whiskey is fractioned in. This is an orchestrate effect of the dissimilar maturing times and well-balanced quantities of granulates used in every last batch of the American version of whiskey.

The half dozen variant of the all American brewages are the following:

- \* Rye whiskey
- \* Wheat
- \* Tennessee
- \* Bourbon
- \* Blended whiskey
- \* Corn whiskey

### **Rye and Wheat whiskey**

Broadly speaking rye whiskey constitutes blended products to produce different characters of whiskeys. Exclusively a really diminished destiny of this whiskey is in reality bottled. It should be drawn from at minimum 51 percent rye appropriate to be viewed as rye whiskey. The extracting and storing considerations match the equivalent essentials every bit like Bourbon technique. Largely produced in the provinces of Indiana and Bluegrass State, Kentucky, it is a bit unusual because it has a small hint of bitterness and more compelling taste.

## **Tennessee**

There are a couple of deviations between Tennessee and Bourbon. They are really intimately kindred. Tennessee must all of the time be filtered by sugar maple wood coal, and may entirely be created in the land of Tennessee, therefore they are identified after the state. Presently there are just 2 brand name of this whiskey for sale namely Jack Daniels and George Dickel.

## **Bourbon**

Bourbon whiskey is considered to be acquired exclusively in Kentucky, which equals myth it has kept up production in several states. Specifications for making bourbon are elementary. It must be produced in the U.S.A., should simply comprise the 51 percent corn ingredients, and must solely be stored in barrels made from charred oak for a time period not less than 2 years. The flavor in its crude form could not go past 80 percent alcohol in intensity.

## **Blended Or Mixed American Whiskey**

You must not be mixed up in deviations of Scottish whiskey and blended whiskey. In general, American whiskey only bears rye in roughly 20 percent and bourbon whiskey, an industrial "spirit" in mass production, accounts for the 80 percent in the beverage. This brands the merchandise really inexpensive and practically gentler than its American counterparts.

## **Corn**

Attributed to the intense excess of corn crops harvest across the US, it became an evident selection to exploit corn in whiskey distillery. Soon enough, this new formulation became the predecessor Bourbon. Since adopted corn is the primary element with almost 80 percent. The departure between corn whiskey and the original Bourbon is the requirements and rule of storage changed. With this type of whiskey, storage is as simple as simply putting it inside an average bottle, fashioning the mandatory charred oak wood casks unnecessary. But as for preferences go, ageing it still involves the original Bourbon casks or barrels but it should have been uncharred.

## **Worldwide Whiskeys - Trivia That Any Whiskey Lovers Must Know About**

Casting out a superior malt whiskey product is something Scotland holds no monopoly upon. Intoxicating liquor realm has been embarked into from several other nations across the world. To cite one, Canada is one the courageous territory. The whiskeys produced by Canadian are leading off to muster up on adaptations which boasts distinct characteristics and boldly tasteful on the discriminating taste buds.

Canadian ordinances abide by stern compliance enforced upon these hard drink. They are distilling processed and bottle contained within no less than twenty-four months prior to consumption. Typically, not sooner than half a dozen years or a lot are often lengthier than that nowadays when bottling is set.

they are mixed, thus in that sense are not celebrated as full-strength whiskies. Their boldness and lightness in spirit manage to preserve an absolute distinguishing consistency and quality. The authorities of Canada execute strict check of labeling and the Excise taxation.

Thus far, no specifications are constructed in replacement for the granulate recipes or distilling methods. Nor have in that respect been in reference to the aging components or time estimates been decreed or regulated. Reliance is willed to however the manufacturers of this merchandise influence their markets overseas and locally desire upon product. This act by the authorities testifies to embody a diplomatic decisiveness since the Canadian manufacturers appear to possess a substantial hold in every last markets and domains.

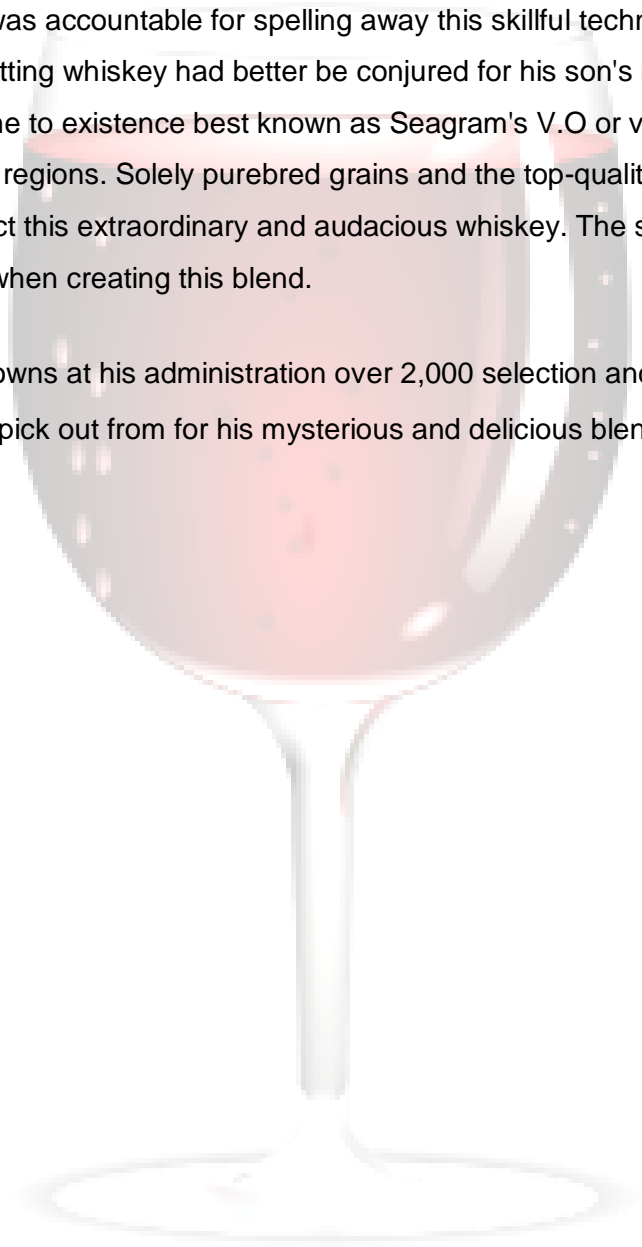
It might not hail as a surprise that brands encountered in the U.S.A. for distillery purpose is very much a basic deal. The exclusive exception of the function of cereal granulates and a few commercial secrets are the markers on product. Not confronted with contrived validation prohibition in their distillation operations, Canadian distillers are competent to pursue uninterrupted distillation schemes. They proceed under stipulations that are best as the breakup and extract of suitable congeners.

The kinship between hard drink spirits as opposed to the congeners is in no means blemished though in the fermentation grind solution. The caskfuls are constructed from white oak. They are

ranked in US gallons full-blown cooperage checks rapport of the fine-grained whiskies. Matchless fine product cloak-and-dagger is in the exquisite tang and dimensions in ripening batches cooperage.

Sir Joseph Seagram was accountable for spelling away this skillful technique. In the year 1911, he resolved that a befitting whiskey had better be conjured for his son's marriage ceremony day. His ingenious mix came to existence best known as Seagram's V.O or very own whiskey since it is recognized in those regions. Solely purebred grains and the top-quality from spring water were utilized to concoct this extraordinary and audacious whiskey. The same technique is nevertheless applied when creating this blend.

The superior blender owns at his administration over 2,000 selection and premium-seasoned footings that he could pick out from for his mysterious and delicious blends.



## **Ageless Secret Of Whiskey - Discover The Rich History**

In the year 800 B.C. a wonderful discovery took place in Asia. Refuted claims that the process of distillation was first used for perfumes is now the same technique utilized in producing whisky.

No one really has any idea how this technique reached the shores of the British Isles. Yet, Moors mostly take credit for bring it to Europe. It was further developed by monks in the monasteries of the central parts. In the year 432 AD St. Patrick, an Ireland patron saint adopted this method and refined it in the monastery. Eventually, the Celts were able to get into the cloak-and-dagger of the monks, which made them learn the skill as well. Gaelic word "Uisge Beatha", meaning water of life was the offshoot of this knowledge.

Uisge is where scotch whiskey originated. This was coined from this Gaelic word. It is not a wonder why the name came about. It was in the year 1494 that a Friar named John Cor arranged to have 8 bolls of malt. This is a component used in producing strong liquor. This was the evidence that supports whiskey production in Scotland in those early years.

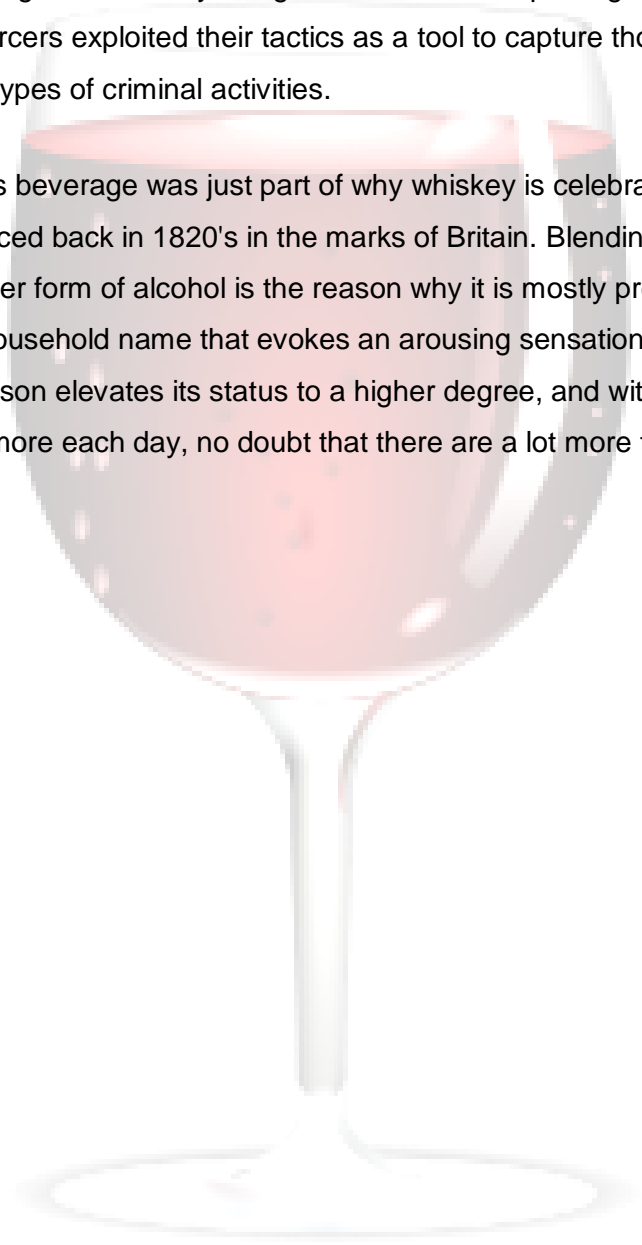
Without a moment's notice, distilling spread outside the walls of the monasteries. This paved the way for killing the monopoly of the missionaries on whiskey production. More and more people enjoyed making and drinking it at the same time. This became somewhat destructing to the general productivity of farmers and other workers alike. The after effects of dowsing too much liquor is drunkenness and a bad hangover. That's why the government took it upon themselves to ban homemade production of distilled liquor. They awarded manufacture to private entrepreneurs provided they have a license. This all took place in 1820.

As time progressed, so did the technique of distillation. Makers found out that aging it smoothens the brew. This wonderful discovery was accidental when a barrel full of whiskey got lost in time. By the time it was found the ripeness and fullness of flavor was astounding. Thus began the new chapter in history.

In the history pages of whiskery, it's not all pleasant. Because this is the most coveted liquid governments had a hard time regulating it. To keep citizens from consuming too much

preventive methods like taxes were imposed on it like in 1725, English malt tax. But, the more it became illegal the more bloodshed spread throughout the nation. From smuggling to unlawful distilleries were rampant and taking over like a plague. They devised ways to sell it to the public without permit from the government by using different labels or placing no labels on their liquors at all. In turn, law enforcers exploited their tactics as a tool to capture those outlaws to contain the increase of these types of criminal activities.

The dark history of this beverage was just part of why whiskey is celebrated by alcoholics from the time it was introduced back in 1820's in the marks of Britain. Blending whiskey with other non-alcoholic or another form of alcohol is the reason why it is mostly preferred by consumers. Scotch whiskey is a household name that evokes an arousing sensation when in the form of blends. This same reason elevates its status to a higher degree, and with the malt being developed more and more each day, no doubt that there are a lot more to expect in the coming years.



## **The Basics Of Chardonnay - An Introduction To A World-Class Wine**

Virtually the best-selling class of white Vino is Chardonnay grape, which can be discovered all across the globe. The savor, sample, and fragrance of it will although, contend upon the region it was produced and the kind of processing techniques were practiced. Chardonnay grape bears a diversity of assorted flairs and spirits, and carries stellar character of grape. Equally an outcome of its fame, this exquisite wine circulated from end-to-end in Europe and elsewhere locates of the Earth reaching as far as Australia and Golden State, California.

Since increasingly wineries came across Chardonnay, the superior wine started to rise in fame rather easily in of South African Republic and other expanses also. Cutting-edge feature of being a none odorous character wine, oak appears to ferment really intimately with it. The fullest and most intricate are French and American Chardonnay. Consequently, among white wines are also one of the most desirable. Still while it manages to endure from weariness, the flavor and fullness still thus is celebrated and loved through many more years to follow.

Chardonnay started from the wine of Burgundy and the bubbly Champagne in the country of France. While blanched Burgundy is a fashionable wine that is fixed with a lesser-famed grape known as Aligote. Yet, the reality stays on that blanched Burgundy cannot evenly attained in the absence of using Chardonnay grape. As an effect it goes to show, Chardonnay grapes holds much more than just a few roles.

In visual aspect, Chardonnay grapes are colored green with thinly peels. The fruit is an upshot of the Croatian Blanc grape and Pinot grape. Both of which are nonexistent to this generation. Chardonnay wine, on the one hand, is however best-selling, soured and maturated employing oak casks that facilitate in bring to the surface the vanilla relish it is well celebrated as. It may in addition to be ripened and fermented employing bottles, though it inhibits aging rather very much like red wine.

Just about all of Chardonnay wines are believed to be cooled down, bringing in them turn exceedingly fine with ravishers that incorporate cheeses and butter. The wines likewise ingest fewer acid substance also, which brands them to forge befitting on seafood equally fine. The

expanse of cuisine that can brace Chardonnay with is what earns it indeed to be a favorite. Several exquisite restaurants provide it to their patrons, particularly those who dish-up seafood and Italian restaurants.

Chardonnay grape may likewise be utilized in constructing bubbly Champagne also other sorts of sparkling. While Chardonnay wine, by far, is the all but favorite function, there are so many more of additional consumptions for this intoxicating fruit that contributed to more or less genuinely fine-grained wines. Oak is frequently applied on the wine likewise, which offers it with just about a great spirits every bit as it ripens with age. While it may substantiate a technicality on the high-priced side, it all the same persists among the most loved classes of wine. You will be able to discover it at whatever wine or alcoholic beverage store - coming through in a corking new member to your wine or beverage collection.



## Ice Wine - A Glance

Ice wine, what it is? This would be the question, which many of you might ask me. They are one of the rarest forms of wine, produced especially in the Pacific Northwest region. You might ask why specifically in Pacific Northwest region? It is because of the apt weather that is required to prepare ice wine.

Albeit apt weather conditions for the production of ice wine, only very little quantities are produced. Why is it so? Because, it requires the best quality grapes, which is not available in abundant. To tell you the truth, ice wine is something, which you cannot purchase just like that for two reasons:

- a) Rare availability
- b) Expensive

Possessing ice wine is like a dream come true. How happy you would feel if you own a house or owning a BMW? Excited and elated, am I rite? Possession of ice wine is very similar to this experience. Grapes that is required to prepare ice wine is rare. Even if you get grapes, weather must be apt to produce it. Only when all these come in place, ice wine can be prepared.

What are the pre-requisites for preparing ice wine? High quality grapes that are ripened fully and 5 degree C temperature. It is necessary that the temperature be maintained at 5 degree C for a couple of days. At this temperature, grapes will be frozen. Do you know when these grapes are plucked? Only in the night.

We so far saw how precious ice wine is and requirements to prepare ice wine. Let us now see the process of preparing ice wine. To get the juice from these grapes, they are pressed gently. Due to the extreme temperature, these juices will be frozen. These are fermented by adding sugar. This is how ice wine is prepared.

By reading this article, you might have understood that ice wine is not sold in wine stores. Similarly, it is equally rare to find them online. Even if you were able to find one online, it will definitely cost you a fortune for one bottle.

If you really wish to taste this beautiful and exquisite ice wine, get hold of wine maker in the region of Pacific Northwest. You never know when the bottles would come and as soon as they come, they will vanish off. Prepare yourself to reward the wine maker handsomely if you want to taste ice wine.



## Champagne Racks

Are you a lover of Champagne? If yes, you will surely have heard about Champagne racks as well. It is definitely essential to have riddling racks. As Champagne begin to age, riddling helps by collecting the sediments near the mouth of the bottle. You might have seen bubbles spew from the bottle as soon as you uncork it. This is due to the sediment that is present in Champagne.

We saw what riddling racks are? How do you position Champagne bottles for the sediments to deposit? Position the Champagne bottles at 45 degrees angle in the rack. Ensure that the top or the apex of the rack is hinged using two rectangular boards. On either side of the rack, there will be ten rows with six holes, which means you can keep 120 bottles. Many modern riddling racks have come and they are capable of holding more Champagne bottles.

The one who places these Champagne bottles on the riddling rack is referred to as the riddler. If the riddler has to place the bottles easily without any confusion, there has to be some kind of an indication in the bottles. Am I right? Yes... for this purpose, bottles have painted lines and these acts as an indicator to place the bottles in the right direction.

After few weeks have passed, riddler will slightly twist the direction of the bottle, you may say about 47-48 degrees from the original 45 degrees. Why does he do this? If he doesn't do this, sediments will start to deposit in a single place. At one point of time, bottles will at 60 degrees. This is when the riddling procedure is finished.

Now, the Champagne bottles are kept in the freezer, may be few weeks. What do you think will happen now? An ice plug will be formed near the bottle neck. These are then placed in a conveyer belt. Once this is done, these bottles are taken to a disgorging machine. This will take the crown caps of the Champagne bottles. Pressure is added at this point.

When using riddling racks, factors such as temperature, placement of the racks, etc. has to be taken care of as they play an important role. Many manufacturers knew this and therefore, you need not worry. However, ensure that you take care of these factors too. Riddling racks are definitely required if you want those bursting bubbles when you open the Champagne bottles.

## **Champagne At A Glance**

Is there a celebration anywhere? You definitely can't miss Champagne. Celebrations can be anything like winning a crucial match, getting hold of a billion dollar project, etc. Where there are celebrations, Champagne is always there. It is one of the most flexible beverages. For so many decades, Champagne is used mainly to represent happiness or joy or celebrations.

Do you want to know the origin of Champagne? It is France. French Champagnes are famous for their imprinted bottles and the traditional taste. Ensure that Champagne is spelled with a capital "C". Why specifically capital C? It is because only these Champagnes are made from French vineyards and they are only authorized to use capital C. If not, it means that you are just getting the normal sparkling wine.

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Meunier, what are they? These are the grapes which are grown in French vineyards for preparing the traditional Champagne. You would be amazed to hear that there exists white grapes and Chardonnay belongs to this category of grapes. Remaining two types, namely, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir belongs to the category of black grapes. Just look at the label of your Champagne bottle to know what grapes is used. Depending upon the flavor that your like, you can buy your Champagne.

Champagne is definitely more superior to the usual sparkling wine. Be cautious when you buy Champagne as there are manufacturers who use cheaper grade of grapes to prepare Champagne. However, to know which the best quality Champagne is, you definitely should have tasted Champagne made from French vineyards.

You might have seen bubbles spew from Champagne when you open it and many buy Champagne just to see this bubble spew from it. Do you know why this happens? Carbonic acid gas is present in Champagne and when this react with the small drops of Champagne, you get bubbles. This process is referred to as the double fermentation process.

Just snatch a bottle of Champagne if you have celebrations in place. You may go to the nearest ABC stores to get Champagnes of excellent quality. Have fun in the party with Champagne.

## **Home Made Beer**

If you always had that urge to make your own beer and never knew how to start it, well, here's your chance. Grab it. Because, beer making has never been so easy and inexpensive that you can practically make your own brew at your very own basement or even in the attic. Now you don't need anyone to tell you how it should taste like or what the ingredients should be or how much lather it should have, you get to choose what your beer should taste like, look or feel like. You can be your own boss.

All this can be possible with a little research, buying the right equipment and the most important thing of all, buying the right material to start with.

So if you have made up your mind to make your very brew of Beer, here are some of the things that you are going to need. First, you will need a malt extract. Then you will need the right kind of water and then the magic ingredient - the Brewers Yeast!

The malt extracts are usually in syrup form. That is they are pretty viscous in nature. It can be in liquid form, but keep in mind that dry extracts usually last a lot longer than extracts that are more liquid in nature.

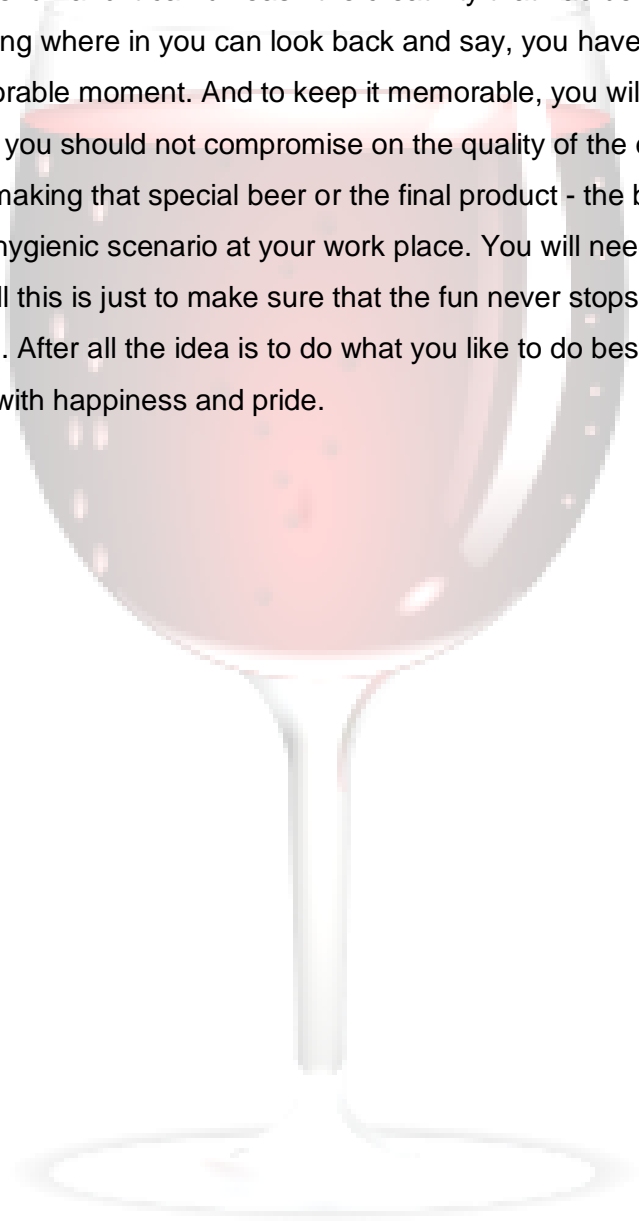
Talking about extracts, there are a number of extracts that exist out there so choosing the right one may be a learning experience. But that would give you a lot of options as to what you want your beer to taste like. The best way to buy these ingredients would be to buy them from an online store. This will help you in getting your 'Beer Making Home Project' kick started a lot earlier and faster.

Water being the base of beer, it is important to choose the right source for the water. Spring water usually gives the best results. However many people have been rather successful by using tap water. The bottom line being, the type of water chosen is totally up to the beer maker and his taste.

The next most important thing about making beer is the yeast. The yeast is the catalyst that starts the chemical reaction between the malt extracts and the sugar so that alcohol is formed which is the part of the beer that makes you feel real good! The formation of carbon dioxide is

what follows next after the formation of alcohol. The carbon dioxide is what gives the fizz effect to the final product.

Making beer at home is fun and it can unleash the creativity that has been kept within you for a long time. It is something where in you can look back and say, you have 'Been there - Done that'. It can be a memorable moment. And to keep it memorable, you will need to make sure that what ever you do, you should not compromise on the quality of the equipment or the raw materials that go into making that special beer or the final product - the beer itself. You will need to maintain a positive hygienic scenario at your work place. You will need to make sure that your equipment is sterile. All this is just to make sure that the fun never stops with someone tasting your beer and falling ill. After all the idea is to do what you like to do best and share it with everyone. So share it with happiness and pride.



## **Beer Brewing**

Are you bored? Are you trying to kill time? Are those mindless re-runs on T.V making you want to jump of the second floor of your house? Well you don't have to anymore. There are countless hobbies and activities out there that are easy and fun to do. Here is a suggestion - How about brewing your very own beer? Who knows, you might even start a world-class beer brand name!

Almost everyone, when they retire, start thinking of some or the other activity to keep themselves busy and to keep their mind and body from becoming rusty. Some of them try plane modeling, some try wine making. Some make beer.

Making wine and beer with permissible limits of alcohol is fine and you don't have to be weary of what you are going to make.

First, what you need are the basic raw materials and the equipment to start the beer project. These can be found online or at your local liquor store. These Beer making kits can be anywhere from 50 \$ to a 100 \$. Considering the fact that you could sell your product one day, these prices shouldn't put you back that much.

Beer making is a lot of fun and it can also teach you a thing or two. You can try various combinations of the ingredients and make your own special tasting brew. You can learn a lot of things from this homemade Beer Project. For instance, you can tweak or modify or adjust certain controls on your Beer making equipment to get the taste that you want. You can make your very own beer recipe and distribute it among your friends and have them review your beer or you can publish it on an online beer making blog.

The ideal location to do this project would be in your garage or in your basement. That way you wouldn't be in the way of anyone, and you can go on for hours experimenting and improving your beer making techniques. You can set up your garage or basement with the beer making equipment and also set it up so that it is a secret getaway where you can call you special friends and enjoy that special beer.

A lot of people who have brewed their own home made beer can vouch for the fact that it is a lot of fun. It is something every red-blooded person who has a belly for beer and a taste for

excitement should try in their spare time. You never know what can happen next, you could be the next greatest liquor baron bringing the best lager or pilsner to a liquor store near you.



## **Microbrews And The Famous Anheuser Busch - Fascinating Facts About Rivals In The Beers Industry**

Beer brewing holds forever the heart and soul of the Anheuser-Busch business company. A manufacturer giant since 1957, currently Anheuser-Busch holds over one-half of the local beer market share.

The commercialize share has risen to a great deal that Anheuser-Busch has today a larger portion of the consumer market compared to its following 4 rivals, with the global revenues being consistent. Anheuser-Busch continues to be the major exporter of their beer from the U.S.A., with gross revenue to a higher degree in sixty territories.

Microbreweries, or microbrews otherwise known, experience gaining ground on consumers attention successfully the past respective years for sometime now. Microbrews are better categorized as breweries producing to a lesser extent than fifteen hundred casks in a fixed Twelvemonth.

The strong suit of microbrews is based on their Doctrine that beer ought to be from the most superior fiber essence. Consequently, microbrews are alone brewed with malt barleycorn, hops, water supply, and yeast; these compose the sole 4 elements found in the most undiluted German beers. Corn and rice are common additives to help bring down prices of mass-produced beer bottle.

The only discouraging factor to microbrews is on their price. The less affordable elements detected in microbrews prices on the average sixty percent more eminent than the good deal beers.

Beer Is not comparable to wine, which inclines to beget fuller with maturation. Beer is rather more like food which must be ingested as shortly as feasible after yield. Knowing this, saloons or microbrews that make beer on that assumptions are the freshest current trends, with 4 brand-new pubs on the average popping from each one and weekly.

Annually, revenues of microbrews arises to a median of forty percent per annum. This calculation is really arresting Once you count into the depiction the consumers is reducing in general. Still on this surprising achievement, the microbrew revenues make up approximately 2 % of the total beer consumer market.

Due to their quest to keep on dominating the Whole beer trade. Anheuser-Busch makes effort to solicit market share using the same technique and enter the craze of microbrews. They lately bought a post in the Seattle founded microbrewery named Red Hook Ale . The fresh merchandise they brought out into the beer loving market include Elk Mountain Red, Elk Mountain Amber Ale, and Red Wolf.

Microbrews are typically created regionally, Hence Anheuser-Busch is formulating regional Producers and distributors. Through arranging this, they essentially resolve upon the best conceivable direction to Manage their short immediate payment needs for buying Stocks in these small plants.

On their modern conversion into the domain of microbrews, one can forecast Anheuser-Busch to earn quite a shock. They will be providing A lot of microbrews in the time to come, which is not bad news for beer lovers. Anheuser-Busch is, to a greater extent, deserving of your time and net worth, so when you do fancy the intense savor of microbrews its the name you can trust.

## **Home Microbrewery: What Is It?**

A home microbrewery is a small operation in which an individual processes their own beer from scratch. The process can be done with minimal supplies bought separately or with a kit that is purchased containing all the necessary supplies. With a little work and a lot of patience, anyone can have their own specially brewed beer flavor.

The term microbrewery originated as a description for a small commercial brewery. Typically, it refers to a brewery that produces fewer than 15,000 barrels of beer each year. The trend of micro brewing became popular in the United Kingdom in the 1970's, referring to mainly those that placed an emphasis on the production of cask ale. However, the idea eventually became more of a description of those who opted for the flexibility of brewing their own recipes rather than conforming to the large corporate conglomerates that tend to dominate the marketplace.

A home microbrewery takes it one step further. It allows an individual to play to his or her own taste, experimenting with new and different recipes, and even altering their own. Typically, a home microbrewery only produces batches of five gallons at a time, though some people certainly double and even triple the recipe designations, if they are perhaps planning to sell their creations. However, the five gallon batch is actually quite large, and you could always continue brewing throughout the weeks that it takes the other batches to ferment and ready themselves for drinking.

Typically, a home microbrewery product will take a full month to mature, from the time you cook it, to the time you bottle it, and then to the time at which it will actually be ready to drink. Just be sure that the storage for your brew is not too hot, as this will cause the recipe to either go flat (lose or never pick up carbonation) or any other number of catastrophes that could completely ruin your beer.

If you become an expert in the use of your home microbrewery, you could also think about the possibility of selling your beer, as many people are perfectly happy to drink anything you can pour in a beer mug, and even more so at the thought of something new and different in their hands.

## **Home Microbrewery: Is It Worth the Time?**

The term microbrewery has been used in the past to define small commercial beer breweries. However, now the trend of micro brewing has extended beyond a commercial practice and become a favorite pastime within the home for many. While some do it for the sheer pleasure of being able to create and brew their own beer recipes, others do it to enhance their beer drinking experience.

The home microbrewery is a process that involves detailed instructions and must be followed accurately, since veering from the path laid out in the recipe directions can cause catastrophes, like having an entire batch of brew turn out flat.

Having a home microbrewery allows experimentation. Although there are several types of beer on the market, and several different flavors within each type, in your own home, you are able to create your own recipe to your exact liking. Perhaps you've found a beer or two that you can buy which almost seem perfect. However, this one's just a little too bitter, and that one's just a little too dark. You can look up different recipes for that particular type of beer and experiment with adding more or less hops, brewing a bit longer, letting the yeast ferment a bit longer, or any number of factors that could enhance the flavor for you just a bit.

Also, in the United States, the selection of beer tends to be limited as opposed to some other countries across the globe. Even most of the darkest beers here are still fairly light. This is because, during prohibition, many breweries went bankrupt and had to shut down business. Only a few remained, and these became the standard "light" beers we see on the market today, such as Budweiser. Although this type of beer is quite popular, many people want to experience the different varieties of dark beer that you might find in Germany.

Overall, the ability to create your own favorite recipe, bottle it, and drink it at your leisure is enough of an excuse to build a brewery in your garage. You can also share with friends, or, depending upon how ambitious you are, you can bottle it and sell it. You wouldn't be the first to brew some "moonshine" and distribute your wares!

## **Home Microbrewery: Trying Different Flavors**

With so many types and flavors of beer on the market, you may not be sure where to start with your home microbrewery. Sure, you have your favorite flavors, but maybe you want to experiment, brewing something similar but with a few changes to the recipe. Or maybe you want to brew something else entirely. The best thing to do is start by exploring the many different possibilities available to brew.

First of all, there are ales, and then there are lagers. These two types of beer differ in brewing process mainly based on the temperature at which fermentation occurs, the amount of time involved, and the yeast used. The yeast used to brew lager produces less fruity esters but more sulfur compounds. This can cause a smell reminiscent of rotten eggs but doesn't mean the batch is bad. Lager also ferments at a slightly lower temperature (preferentially 45-55 degrees F as opposed to 65 degrees F for ales). This helps to resist the production of unwanted by-products during the first stages of fermentation. It also assists in removing any other compounds from the brew that can lead to unwanted smells or off-flavors.

In addition to deciding whether you want ale or lager, you must determine the type of malt to use. Lager malt and pale ale malt are common, mainly using malted barley, but there are also several other options for the malt you use. For example, wheat malt has been used as long as barley malt but, because it doesn't have an out husk, it has fewer types of tannin. It also has higher protein content. Rye malt, while not common, may also be used and is becoming more popular all the time. It will add "spiciness" to the brew and should only be 5-10% of the grain used in a recipe. It is even stickier than wheat malt.

Other malts include biscuit malt, victory malt, dextrin malt, caramel malt, chocolate malt, and roast barley, just to name a few. Other grains that can be used in home microbreweries include oatmeal (good for porters and stouts), flaked corn (for bitter beers), and flaked rice (for traditional light American or Japanese lagers).

With so many choices, it may be difficult to choose where to start with your home microbrewery. However, the good thing is that the variety and selection mean that you are sure to be able to create a recipe to your liking.

## **Home Microbrewery: The Brewing Process**

Even if you've bought a kit to begin your home microbrewery process, the instructions can be confusing and sometimes even conflicting. Rather than wade through all that red tape, take some advice and use the simplest method possible.

First, you need to have either five gallons of boiled (sanitized) water or distilled water in a large bucket. You'll take two gallons out of there and boil it. While this comes to a boil, have the Brown Ale extract (a Nut Brown Ale kit is one of the easiest to use) from your kit and a 3.3 pound can of light, unhopped malt extract sitting in lukewarm water in the sink. This will help soften the contents for ease of pouring.

When the water comes to a boil, take it off the heat and empty the extract cans into it. Stir until the extract dissolves. Return the pot to the heat and bring back to a boil, letting it boil for about half an hour. Then, you'll cool it.

Now, you'll sprinkle your yeast into a half cup of warm (not hot) water to rehydrate it for better fermentation. Your cooled wort and the yeast can then be poured back into the water in the bucket. Stretch a cloth over the top and secure it with some sort of stretch band. This bucket should now be placed in a cool, dark place for the next two weeks. Keep an eye on it, in case it begins to grow up against the cloth – any time this happens, the cloth should be replaced.

At the end of two weeks, you'll bottle the beer. First, take 2 ½ ounces of dry corn sugar and mix with about one pint of water, then add to your wort. You can also use about 48 long neck bottles with caps and a wing capper. You need a sanitized 4-5 foot length of clear vinyl hose to do this. Place the bucket so that its bottom is elevated slightly above the bottles and siphon the liquid into the bottles, filling to within about an inch of the top. Use a clothespin to secure the end of the hose when not pouring.

When all the bottles are full (or you are out of beer), place them in a dark spot where they can condition for another two weeks. At the end of this time, place them in a refrigerator to chill. The only remaining step is to enjoy, and perhaps repeat!

## **Home Microbrewery: How To Choose Your Supplies**

Just like any other venture you may undertake, starting a home microbrewery involves some thought and planning. The various options for types of beer, as well as the different equipment available, can be overwhelming. However, making your decision doesn't have to be difficult.

A home microbrewery can be very simplistic, utilizing standard household items. Especially if it is your first attempt, and you are unsure as to whether or not this is going to become a regular pastime for you, it may be important to not spend large amounts of money on fancy equipment. After all, some of the best beer ever made came from home microbreweries during prohibition, and moonshine definitely wasn't brewed with fancy modern equipment.

To make things easy on yourself, at least for your first attempt, you may want to use a kit, rather than attempting to gather all the cooking materials separately on your own. The kit will have your yeast, extracts, malts, and other brewing necessities. That will leave you with only the actual devices needed.

To be basic, you can start with a pot that can boil three or more gallons of water and a big spoon with a handle that is taller than the pot. You'll also need a five-gallon bucket, like the ones they sell at Home Depot for mixing cement or other compounds. You should have about two-and-a-half dry ounces of corn sugar, a clean cloth that is large enough to cover and drape over the edges of the bucket and an elastic band of some kind large enough to fit around the bucket. The last of your supplies will include four or five feet of clear vinyl hose, a clothespin, and about 48 bottles. These can be of the flip top variety, or, if you want to get fancy, you can use long necks and caps, with a wing capper.

If you desire, you can get a little technologically advanced. Some now suggest that, instead of the bucket and cloth, you invest in an airlock. While being more likely to withstand any exposure to moisture or conditions that could lead to molding, a bucket and cloth carefully watched and stored in a cool, dry place will do just as well and won't cost a fortune. Overall, you should simply avoid spending too much money on a hobby until you are sure you wish to continue with it.

## **Home Microbrewery: Should I Use A Kit?**

When choosing to begin a home microbrewery, it is a personal decision as to whether or not to use a starter kit. While this does make things simpler, it also takes away a lot of the possibility for creativity.

Let me start by suggesting that all first-timers begin with some form of kit. This eliminates the worry that you will forget an ingredient, since most startup kits contain all the elements required to create beer. While you'll still have to gather all the utensils required to brew, ferment, and store your beer, at least you'll be sure to have all the components that cook up within the brew itself.

Also, as a first-timer, kits contain step-by-step instructions. This means that you can follow along with the guide and not have to worry about anything special for any particular type of beer. The home microbrewery kits tell you what to do and when to do it. You are guaranteed to come out with a good beer, whether it's your favorite kind or not.

However, if you've done this before, or if you are just the kind of person who likes to start from scratch or just experiment a little, a kit may not be for you. In your case, you'll want to read recipes and instructions carefully so that you can make a list of everything you'll need prior to going out and purchasing your ingredients. If you like to experiment, you may also want to do a little research to make sure that the changes you are thinking of making are not going to ruin the beer. After all, five gallons of brew is a lot to waste!

Keep in mind, too, that if you are experienced in home brewing, you could still work with a kit and make minor adjustments to the recipe in order to create your own unique flavor. Adding more or less hops, more or less malt or yeast, or even replacing a kit ingredient with something else you saw in another recipe can make a very different beer product from the one the kit describes.

Whatever you choose, know that this fun venture can be quite a complex hobby. However, if you put the care and effort into it that is required, you are sure to come out with an enjoyable product that makes the fruits of your labors completely worth the effort!

## **Home Microbrewery: A Great Gift For Your Guy**

Let's face it – men are hard to shop for. They don't like much in the way of clothes or jewelry, and you can't buy them a sports car for their birthday. So, what can you do? Well, one thing most men like is beer. Of course, you could just buy them a bunch of beer, and they might be satisfied. But a better gift would be a home microbrewery kit.

Why give them something that takes time and effort, you ask? Well, first of all, you're showing them what a hassle it can be to slave over the stove and cook dinner every night! But seriously, men can buy their own beer any day of the week. What they don't think of doing for themselves is working to create that perfectly satisfying flavor that they've always tried to find on the shelf but never quite reached. With a home microbrewery kit, they are one step closer to capturing that perfection they seek.

With the kit, they can experience every step of the beer making process and be proud of their own efforts. When they've been patient and allowed the beer to ferment, then condition, they can chill the beer they made with their own two hands and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Everything tastes sweeter when you've done it yourself. And once they've had a taste of this little hobby (pun intended), they'll probably want to continue it. After all, once they get the hang of it, they'll want to experiment and try new types and flavors of beer, testing and tasting to see what they like best. Each attempt will be a trial to improve upon their last batch until they reach their ultimate goal.

Besides, if there is one thing men want, it's to have something unique to share with the world. What better than a unique beer recipe; one that no one else has and no one else has ever tasted? Your man will feel a sense of accomplishment, and he'll love this gift. A home microbrewery kit is a great way to impress your man and make him curious as to just what he can do for himself rather than what you can do for him. It will bring out the explorer in him.

## **Home Microbrewery: Cooking With Your Brew**

Cooking can be an enjoyable pastime. So can drinking beer. In fact, using a home microbrewery to make your own beer means the drinking is even better. So, why not combine the two and cook with your own homemade beer, making many of your favorite recipes that much better?

You may wonder why anyone would want to cook with beer at all. Well, it's a lot like cooking with wine. First of all, it keeps meats tender and juicy, helping to hold in natural flavors that are often cooked out over open flames, making the meat drier. Second, it provides additional flavor to whatever you happen to be cooking, whether vegetables, meats, or otherwise.

Why brew the cooking beer at home? Well, first of all, you'll always have a ready supply! Also, this can assure that the flavor you are cooking into your food is one that you will enjoy. For instance, if you are frying beer-battered chicken, what could be worse than not liking the flavor of the batter?

So, what are some of the dishes you can cook up with beer? Technically, almost any dish can benefit from the addition of a little brew. Beer bread is a simple recipe that is based on the use of your ale. Marinate mushrooms or steam mussels using your beer. Add a little splash to your crab dip to give it a bit of zing.

When making batters, don't stop with chicken – use the batter for shrimp, catfish, or even pork chops. Imagine your ham with that extra moisture cooked right in, or some braised beef marinated in beer. Even stews and soups are better with a bit of beer. Don't forget to add some brew to your barbecue sauce to make it spread better over your meat, and baste everything! Create a mustard sauce for dipping or basting, finishing off your grilling session!

You can even use your homemade brew to cook up some breakfast. A bit of beer puts your pancake batter over the top and can add a bit of flavor to your hash browns as well. You can even work beer into dessert! Having a home microbrewery gives you access to a great cooking aid any time of day, any day of the week, so don't underestimate the power of beer!

## **Home Microbrewery: Running Your Own**

Anyone can make a trip to their local supermarket and buy a six pack of beer, unless you live in a dry town, in which case you can run to the nearest beer and wine store. However, not everyone can make their own home brew. The question is, do you have the desire to create your own unique beer recipe, or would you rather drink the same old thing straight off the shelf?

First of all, regardless of the hundreds of different brands and styles of beer you can find at the store, many of them are brewed with the same or similar recipes. This traces back to the days of prohibition, when many of the breweries went out of business. The only companies that were left were to huge corporations, all of which produced mostly what is now the standard “American pale ale”. To find variety, you usually have to make a trip to some sort of specialty store, whether this is actually a liquor store or a beer and wine shop that sells many imports.

By starting a home microbrewery, you can determine exactly what type of beer you prefer and have a supply of it at all times. You won't have to make frequent trips, which is especially helpful to those who live in dry towns or counties, and you can be sure that the beer flavor is to your taste. You can experiment and try new things, “testing the water” with different recipes, mixing and matching and making your own adjustments to the given recipes.

A home microbrewery gives you the opportunity to share a unique recipe with friends during a barbecue, provides an excellent cooking utensil (beer can make everything taste better, as well as tenderize meat and poultry products), and simply give you a feeling of satisfaction at having made something you can call your own. Plus, once you own the equipment to make your own beer, the supplies for a five-gallon batch are much less costly than purchasing cases of pre-brewed and bottled beer.

Of course, you may not care to brew your own beer, in which case there are plenty of options on the supermarket shelves to choose from. However, if you are looking for a little something different, try a home microbrewery kit and see what you can concoct.

## **Home Microbrewery: Finding A Quality Kit**

If you are interested in starting a home microbrewery and concocting your own beer recipe, I would recommend not starting from scratch. Although an experienced brewer would prefer to have the freedom of choosing their own ingredients, someone who has never ventured down the road before will be better off purchasing a pre-packaged set. This guarantees that you won't miss anything on the shopping list, and you will have quality products to start with.

The number one thing to remember in choosing a home microbrewery kit is that you want to buy a kit that includes all ingredients. This requires a bit of research so that you are aware of the necessary materials. There are several online resources detailing the process and materials for brewing beer at home, and these will help you make a checklist of items that should be included in your kit.

Also, when choosing your kit, make sure you know what kind of beer you want to brew. There are different kits for different lagers or ales, whether pale ales, ports, dark brews, brown ales, or whatever else may suit your taste buds. Also, determine the amount of ingredients included in the home microbrewery kit; most recipes are geared for five gallon batches, so make sure that, if the kit you purchase contains ingredients for smaller batches, you can either reduce the recipe or purchase more than one kit.

When buying online, try to find a reputable source. There are plenty of established companies to purchase a home microbrewery kit from, so don't try to save a buck or two by getting your kit from a little known or unknown source. Compare prices before making a purchase. Don't overpay. With all the available sources for materials, you should seek out the best deal. Be prepared – this could take a little time.

The utensils you use with your kit don't have to be anything special, either. Although with modern advances, there are new and improved methods to home brewing, the standard five gallon bucket with a covering cloth that were used in the days of prohibition will work just as well. If you aren't sure you wish to continue this hobby in the future and simply want to give it a go, there is no need to purchase an expensive airlock. So, give it a go, and enjoy your favorite beer without ever leaving your house!

## **Wine Tasting: Do You Do It Right?**

Wine tasting is something of a unique experience. Each person will experience it in their own way but most don't taste it at all. Sure, you may experience the taste of something other than water in your mouth, but until you truly taste wine, you are probably missing its true benefit to you. Today, there is a growing demand for wine tasting education. Is this something that you need? First, learn if you really taste wine the way that you should be.

Wine has a unique taste. Because it is such a complex taste, though, most individuals do not take the time necessary to actually taste it fully. This is a sad mistake because the true benefit of wine is in its true flavor. Each wine that you find on the market is unique in its own way. The sun beats down on each region that produces wine uniquely, from a different strength to a different intensity. The soil in each region is unique, with different minerals, good and bad. What all of this does is create a unique grape, one that is only grown in that region of the world. Unlike other foods, the simplest of differences in the taste of a grape will make a large difference in the taste of the final product it makes such as wine.

Because of the process of making wine is so unique in virtually every region of the world that too contributes to a unique taste. Still, many individuals find that true wine tasting is not something that is specific to a region, but something that should be done everywhere to really experience what wine is.

When you really drink wine so that you can taste it, you can clearly see the benefits that it can offer to you. You can taste the complexity of the flavors that have gone into it. You can taste the different levels of freshness, of sweet and sour and of each slight difference. In addition, when you taste it properly, you also smell it properly, which is also another experience that wine should offer to you.

Take a few minutes to really enjoy the taste and smell of the wine you have. Select a few types of wines and really learn how the flavors meld together. Find out how this wine really is supposed to be tasted. It will completely change the way that you feel about wine.

## **Wine Tasting: A Bit Of History**

Throughout centuries of time, people have been taking this vine that seemed to grow in various areas uniquely to other plants and they learned to make from it something quite unique. That is, of course, wine. Today, wine tasting parties and events allow individuals to really experience the options that they have in wines of all types. Yet, wine tasting is not always about just tasting the types of wine that are used today, but also experiencing the types of wine that come from the past. In effect, when you are tasting wine, you are tasting a bit of history.

### **Why It's Important**

Wine has always played a very important role in virtually every facet of our lives. It is there for celebrations and a simple good meal. It has been there to commemorate special events, as part of our regular diet and even helps to honor long dated customs throughout time. All of this comes from wine. It was part of ceremonies of kings and the meals of the peasants working on the farm.

Wine was actually first cultivated by the Mesopotamians well back into 6000 BC. Probably the most well known wine makers in time were the Romans and the Greeks. They were the first to really harness it. They were the ones to use wine in religious ceremonies first, as well. Later, during the Dark Ages, wine was made in monasteries by the Christian monks of the time. They used new methods for refining and fermenting that are in some cases still used today.

As time has passed, the methods of making wine have changed as well. With modern machines and even just the advent of the New World, new wines were available readily. Today, there are thousands of types of wines and each offers their own unique flavor and aroma. Each is worth a taste. It is easy to believe that wine will continue to change and even improve as new methods of making and fermenting it happen.

There is little doubt that wine has played a significant role in the history of people. In many cases, wine making has stayed the same, yet it has also changed quite a bit over the years. With so many types of wine to try, give yourself the opportunity to select a wine that has used ancient methods to making it. It is a unique experience and one that will help you to taste a bit of history with your wine.

## **Wine Tasting: Temperature Matters**

If you are having a wine tasting party or you will be just having a nice dinner, you want your guests and yourself to be able to truly experience the full flavor of the wine that you have purchased. There is no telling that wines are highly valuable and there is nothing worse than thinking you have the right wine to compliment your dinner only to find out that it does not taste correctly. That often happens because the wine's temperature is off.

Although you may not realize it, wine should be kept at a specific temperature both when you store it as well as when you serve it. The temperature of the wine when you serve it will bring out different flavors within that bottle of wine. These may or may not be the flavors you want to bring out, though.

For example, if you have a less than perfect bottle of wine, serve it at a cooler temperature as it will hide some of those imperfections. This is a good thing to do for an inexpensive wine or even a wine that hasn't aged fully yet. If you want to really experience the characteristics of the wine, though, then you'll want it slightly warmer. This helps to really bring out the true traits that the wine has to offer. This is a great thing to do for wines that are expensive and aged.

Remember this: for every ten minutes of time spent in the refrigerator, the wine will lower in temperature by four degrees Fahrenheit. Also, it will go through the same in warming, about every ten minutes. If you have forgotten to take a wine out to cool, you may want to place it in the freezer for no more than half an hour.

What temperature should you serve them at? That depends on the type of wine that you are serving, too. For sparkling wine, go with a temperature that's lower, about 42 to 54 degrees F. For rose and white wines, as well as a light sherry, a good temperature is a bit higher at 48 to 58 degrees F. The warmest wines to serve included those that are fortified, dark sherry and red wines. Keep these served at 57 to 68 degrees.

Use these tricks for giving your guests a bottle or glass of wine and you will be well on your way to having a very perfect compliment to your dinner.

## **Wine Tasting: How To Do A Party**

If you are having a wine tasting party or just will be having a few friends over to taste some wine before dinner, there are several key things that you should keep in mind when doing so. There is no doubt that your goal will be to provide a wonderfully flavored wine to them, but there are also rules and even etiquette that should be followed along the process. Learning these things can help to make any gathering a successful one.

First off, who are you serving? When providing wine to your guests, the host should always pour a glass of wine to the older individuals there. Follow this with the women in attendance. Men should be served next and the host should always be served last. This will allow for everyone to be given the wine that they need without insulting anyone along the way.

But, still, do you know what foods you should provide to the guests when the goal is to taste wine? Most don't realize that there should be some foods used during the process and they should be carefully selected. For example, a platter that offers water crackers (no salt on them!) as well as some bread that offers a very mild or no taste to it. This is excellent for using as a palate cleanser. You shouldn't provide anything that is overly flavored because it will change the flavor that is experienced in the wine, which is not what you are after. For many, it is difficult not to provide much more to their guests. But, keep those foods for later.

You can also provide your guests with water to drink as well as to wash their glasses with after they have tasted one type of wine and will be moving on to the next. A bit of water for this is required especially when several wines will be tasted as it keeps the flavors separate. Some individuals will want to drink a sip of water after each taste of wine and that's something you should plan for.

Wine tasting is something that you should prepare for. There is no reason why you shouldn't be able to provide your guests with a luxurious wine or two to allow them to actually taste wine the right way. Teach them the proper techniques for doing so. After all, you are giving them a wonderful gift!

## **Wine Tasting: How To Attend An Event**

A wine tasting event can be an informal get together or it can be quite formal indeed. If you are planning on attending one, there are things that you should know, especially when you haven't attended one in the past. The goal of a wine tasting event is to taste and sample various types of wines including some that are from the same style. You will learn there how to actually taste wine including the techniques that are important to really experiencing the flavor and body of the wine.

In addition to those things, a wine tasting event is likely to provide you with the experience of trying new types of wine that you may not be used to. If this is the case, you'll want to really pay attention to what is being told to you about the wine including the type, the bouquet and even the region it is from. Learning as much as you can about these wines will allow you to learn how to find other wines that you enjoy.

Prepare!

First things first, find out the formality of the wine tasting event and plan for it. You may also want to find out if a meal will be served after the wine tasting or if you will need to eat prior to attending. Since wines do contain alcohol, you should be prepared to have something in your stomach before you attend and drink.

You should also realize that you will be expected to do certain things. First off, don't wear anything that has a lot of scent to it. Don't chew gum or eat mints. Don't spray a lot of cologne or perfume on. These things will distract from the aroma of the wine and interfere not only with your own wine tasting but also with that of others in attendance. Don't smoke before you taste wine as this too can cause a problem for tasting the wine correctly.

Hold your glass by the stem, not the actual bowl. This keeps fingerprints off the bowl and allows for a clear image of the wine. Realize that you may want to rinse your glass after each type of wine with some water just to experience the next wine fully.

When you attend a wine tasting event, you will clearly see the beauty of wine and learn how to truly enjoy what it has to offer to you.

## **Visit The Vineyard For Wine Tasting**

One of the best places to really experience wine tasting is right at the vineyard. If you haven't had the chance to visit a vineyard, do so. You will be able to experience century old techniques, in many cases, for making some of the world's best wines. Most individuals enjoy the walk around the vineyard as a way to walk into the past and to see and experience what individuals from a century or more ago did. In most areas of the world, there are vineyards of some type for you to visit. Make this a goal that you have.

### **Taste Wine!**

After you have had the opportunity to walk around your chosen vineyard, your host or tour guide is likely to take you to a room or cellar like area that is used for wine tasting. These locations are often cool and filled with the aroma of wine, something that is very unique in and of itself. This is the perfect location to try a few of the wines that are being offered by the vineyard. Some vineyards will provide this service to you so that they can properly explain the types of wines that you taste and to learn more about them from those that work there.

Remember to ask questions here too. You can learn a lot about the process of making wine and why each wine has its own, unique flavor to it. If you have the opportunity to visit several different vineyards over a period of time, this can help you to really see the differences in the process and what those differences do to the quality of the wine that you drink. It is wise to invest some time in finding the right regions to visit as all vineyards have their own unique product based on the soil, the process of wine making and the sunlight and heat of the location they are in.

### **Party, Too!**

If you are planning a party, consider selecting a local vineyard as the location for it. Many vineyards are now allowing for this type of experience and it can be the perfect way to taste some wine and celebrate. One thing to remember when you are visiting a vineyard is that the main goal of doing so will be to educate you and help you to fall in love with the wine so that you buy more of it later!

## **Is A Wine Tasting Party The Right Choice?**

A wine tasting party is a great thing to provide to your friends and family. In fact, for the same cost as a decent meal at a restaurant on Saturday night, you could provide your friends and family with the ability to actually learn how to really drink and taste wine. This is a great social function to provide to your guests and it is a great way for you to enjoy some time at home relaxing with good food, excellent wine and good family.

To put on a good wine tasting party, you do need to provide a few things to your guests. Of course, you will need to provide a few varieties of wine. You'll want to provide your guests with everything else they need as well. This includes the right wine glasses, water glasses and other accessories. You should provide some foods while the wine tasting is happening, but that should only be foods with very mild to no flavors, such as crackers and French breads.

Take a look around your home, too. You'll want to make sure that you don't use anything with any strong odors in the home during the wine tasting party as it will detract and even change the scent of the wine, which is definitely not what you want. Don't use candles, incense or any types of strong fragranced things. You may also want to pick a location in your home that isn't full of smells from the foods that you'll be preparing for the dinner afterwards.

To allow your guests a real ability to taste the different types of wine without actually allowing them to let their opinions come through, place the wine bottles inside of a bag to keep them from actually being seen. This helps individuals really have the clear mind to taste wines of different types and even encourages them to guess at what types they are.

Wine tasting parties can be hosted by just you or you can hire someone from the local vineyard to come out and help educate everyone on how to properly taste wine. If you don't do this, which would be quite expensive, educate yourself on the proper methods of tasting wine. The main goal of any wine tasting party will be to truly enjoy yourself and to get to taste several types of wine while you do so.

## **A Wine Tasting Dinner: The Perfect Finish**

Wine tasting dinners are an excellent way to celebrate virtually any occasion. If you plan to get together to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday with a few adults, consider making reservations for a wine tasting dinner. Many upscale restaurants will offer them. You may even be able to enjoy this dinner at your local vineyard (or perhaps one that is just a short drive away.) Find a vineyard that offers a restaurant. Some will even incorporate a vineyard tour in the price of the dinner which allows you to see how the wine is made. This is a great way for a few or even many individuals to get to taste several types of wine and also get a wonderful dinner to go with it.

### **Plan Early**

When it comes to wine tasting dinners, you will want to consider making reservations for them. Depending on the number of people that will be attending the dinner as well as the timing of the event, you should plan on several hours' worth of dining. In addition, most wine tasting locations will request reservations so that they have someone on their staff that is well educated in the matter to be there during the dinner.

Once you have made reservations at your favorite restaurant and requested a wine tasting event, you may also have the opportunity to select a theme for the dinner. Some locations will offer this while others will not. A theme may specialize in wines that come from a specific area. For example, you may want a theme that incorporates only a variety of French wines, or Italian wines. Or, even smaller locations such as Napa Valley wines can be selected. The theme may be dependant on the actually types of wines that the location has to offer.

There is no doubt that wine tasting dinners will be expensive, but they can be an excellent way for you to learn more about wines. If you find a company that specializes in them, you can even learn quite a bit about the actually wines themselves, what foods they accompany well and even the types of wines that you should serve at various occasions. Having the right meal after a wine tasting is a very well designed event. A wine tasting dinner will dazzle guests and will educate them too.

## **Wine Tasting: Different Wines To Try**

During any type of wine tasting, you will want to taste several types of wines at any one time. The goal will be to educate yourself and your guests about the different options in these wines. But, there is little doubt that you will have many types to choose from. Without a good amount of option, you may limit your guest to a type of wine that they don't like or not open enough doors to new types for them to get a first taste of.

### **Red And Whites And Everything In Between**

The first thing is to consider different styles of wine. Most commonly, people know about red and white wine options. Red wine comes from black grapes that have been fermented with the skin and the pips. But, within this category of red wines, there are many choices. Some are light and mild where as others are more robust and full bodied. You'll find sweeter wines too. Consider a Pinot Noir wine which has a more fruity taste too it. Or, you can consider a New World wine which provides for a more modern type of wine.

In white wines, you also have the same differences. White wine is made differently. It is made of one or both of white or black grapes, but the only thing that is fermented is that of the juice, rather than the entire grape like in red wines. White wine offers many choices, too. You can consider a bone dry wine, or a very sweet wine.

But, there are other types of wines to consider as well. For example, you have sparkling wines, roses, blushes and champagnes to try. Each offers a different and unique fermentation process. And, each offers its own unique taste and experience as well. While some of these can be pricey, as in the way of champagnes, don't level them out of any wine tasting event. While some individuals only provide wines that are from the red and white families, offering one or more of these will also please many guests.

For a wine tasting event, you will want to consider the various types of wine that you can select from. Getting an offering of several to consider is one of the best routes to take. You'll enjoy the experience that each wine can offer to you.

## **Wine Tasting: Taste Differences**

What makes one wine taste different to the next? If you walk down the aisle of any wine selling location, you are going to see hundreds of options to consider. Each wine has its own unique taste and experience. There are plenty of options available to you to consider in fact that are from the same style. For example, there are many options of red wines and many options of white wines. If you plan to have a wine tasting party, you should provide your guests with several options so that you can carefully and fully enjoy each option that you have.

But, what makes wine offer these unique tastes and flavors? There are actually several things that make this happen. Of course, the most obvious of these is that of providing for a variety of grape choices. Some wines are made from several types of grapes while others are made from a single source. In some cases, you'll be able to choose the type of wine that you are serving based on the name that depicts the area in which it has been made. Others are named for the grapes used in them.

Another factor in the taste of wine is that of the locations where those grapes are grown. There are some areas of the world that are much better known for their grape production and wine making facilities than others. These regions are the most suitable based on their climates for growing grapes, but each region still offers some differences from the others out there. The climate of that region affects this. In addition, the type of harvest that is had also plays a role. How ripe the grapes are at the time of picking will determine how dry or sweet the wine is.

Still, one of the largest differences in the tastes of wines comes not just from the grapes but from the fermentation process that is used. The winemaking process is often unique to that wine maker. The temperatures, the methods, and even the time used for fermentation all produce different types of wines for you to sample and enjoy.

As you can see, there is a lot that goes into the process of making wine. Each and every step of the way offers differences that will ultimately affect the flavor and smell of the wine that you'll drink.

