

Cheers! Slainte! Gesondheid! Prost! Skål!



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Introduction

In the beginning there was water ... then came The Flood, and there was too much water. There has been plenty of water ever since, yet, in spite of all this abundance, 'if we look about us, we marvel at the enormous trouble which men take to have wine, as if water was not the most wholesome drink for man', said Pliny, almost two thousand years ago.

It is remarkable that Noah's first action, after the Ark had landed on dry ground after The Flood, was to have 'planted a vineyard, and he drank of the wine, and was drunken ...' (Genesis 10,20-21).

Man's fascination with the fruit of the vine has thus been established from the earliest times, and has yet to decline or disappear.

Alcohol has provided a variety of functions for people throughout history. From the earliest times to the present, alcohol in any form has played an important role. Alcoholic beverages have served as sources of needed nutrients and have been widely used for their medicinal, antiseptic, and analgesic properties. The role of such beverages as thirst quenchers is also obvious, and they play an important role in enhancing the

enjoyment and quality of life. They can be a social lubricant, can facilitate relaxation, and can increase the pleasure of eating. Thus, while alcohol has often been misused by a minority of drinkers, it has proved to be beneficial to most.

It has become an indispensable feature of any social interaction. We seem to enjoy it much more when in the company of friends and family, or at some joyous occasion, to have a glass of something liquid in our hands: it can almost be called the lifeblood of any get-together!

For anyone interested in this fascinating subject, SN has quite a good stock of reading matter to offer. Consider the following: (and remember that this is just a selection of what we have on our shelves!)

General titles

663 SIM
Simon, André. **Drink**.- [s.n.], 1953.
663.2 JOS
Joseph, Robert. **Wine travel guide to the world**.- Footprint Handbooks, 2006.
663.2 PEY
Peynaud, Emile. **The taste of wine**.- Macdonald Orbis, 1987.
663.2096 SWA
Swart, Elmari. **The essential guide to South African wines**.- Cheviot, 2006.

663.223 GON
González Gordon, Manuel M. **Sherry, the noble wine**.- Cassell, 1972.
663.224 FOR
Forbes, Patrick. **Champagne: the wine, the land, and the people**.- Gollanz, 1967.
663.52 HIL
Hills, Phillip. **Appreciating whisky**.- Harper-Collins, 2002.
663.59 COU
Coulombe, Charles A. **Rum: the epic story ...**- Citadel P, 2004.
Q 663.53 TOE
Toerien, Wendy. **Fire water – South African brandy**.- Quivertree, c2008

Party, party, party ...!

To spice up any social gathering, be it an end-of-year party, a wedding, or a dinner with friends, it is essential to have a little know-how on how to mix drinks. Hopefully these titles may help:

751.874 COC
The cocktail bible.- Hamlyn, 2005.
641.874 COC
Cocktails and party drinks.- Tiger Bks., 1989.
Q 641.874 DIC
Dickson, Jean. **Mengeldrankies**.- Tafelberg, 1998.

641.875 SPA

Spath, Siegfried. **Driver-friendly drinks.**- Foulsham, c1990.

... and for the morning after ...

641.87 ADA

Adams, John F. **An essay on brewing, vintage & distillation together with selected remedies for hangover melancholics.**- Doubleday, 1970.

Making your own

In recent years home brewing and the making of beer, wine, cider, and other alcoholic beverages on a small scale has become a popular hobby. There are many benefits to home brewing. Aside from the health benefits you can get from the moderate consumption of your own brew, making it can also be quite fulfilling. It is an enjoyable, educational and satisfying hobby. And the good news is that there are quite a few titles in SN that can help you do this at home! Consider these:

663.5 BOT

Botha, Charmaine. **Mampoerstook – gister en vandag**-Transvaalse Biblioteek- en Museumdiens, c1989.

641.872 ACT

Acton, Bryan. **Making wines like those you buy.**- Argus Bks., 1981 (1993 pr.)

641.872 BER

Berry, C.J. **130 new winemaking recipes.**- Argus Bks., c1985 (1993 pr.)

641.872 DRA

Drapeau, Pierre. **The encyclopedia of home winemaking.**- Nexus, 1999.

641.873 ALE

Alexander, John. **A guide to craft brewing.**- Crowood P., 2006.

641.873 CAL

Calagione, Sam. **An enthusiast's guide to homebrew beers.**- Apple, 2006.

641.873 POO

Pooley, Michael. **Real cidermaking on a small scale.**- Nexus, 1999

Q 641.873 PRO

Proulx, Annie and Nichols, Lew. **Sweet & hard cider.**- Garden Way, 1995.

Q 641.874 DIC

Dickson, Jean. **Make your own liqueurs.**- Delos, c1991.

