

Cranberry Bellini with Cranberry Syrup

This is from Chris Tunstall at abarabove. I am re-posting it here because making a syrup from jellied cranberry sauce is a great idea, (for other awesome ideas, you should check out their site). We used the cranberry syrup in their Bellini and I also used it to make a version of Patriot Punch.

The syrup is extremely easy. You will need:

- 1 – 14 oz can jellied cranberry sauce
 - 2/3 cup sugar
 - 2/3 cup water
1. In a quart sized microwavable container, melt the cranberry sauce on high in 30 second intervals, stirring in between.
 2. Meanwhile, using a small sauce pan on the stove, dissolve the sugar in the water.
 3. When the the sugar is dissolved, add the melted cranberry sauce and stir to combine.
 4. Allow to cool. This will keep refrigerated in a sealed glass bottle for at least a week.

Chris Tunstall's Cranberry Bellini

Chris uses sparkling water. We opted for champagne or sparkling apple cider.

- 1 oz. Cranberry Syrup
 - Champagne or sparkling cider
1. Add the cranberry syrup to a chilled flute or coup
 2. Top with the champagne or sparkling cider
 3. Toast Chris

Patriot Punch

There are a number of versions of this punch. They usually call for cranberry juice and apricot brandy. I saw a use for the cranberry syrup and besides, I can't leave anything alone!

- 1 oz. Irish Whiskey
- 1/2 oz. Apricot Liqueur
- 1/2 oz. Cranberry Syrup
- 1 oz. Champagne
- Lemon twist and brandied cherry

1. Combine all ingredients in a mixing glass with ice and stir until chilled
2. Strain into a chilled coup. Express the lemon peel and float it on top. Drop in the brandied cherry.

Cheers!

In Search of the Perfectly Balanced Manhattan

This came out of my recent exploration of the venerable Manhattan. A few weeks ago, we attended a dinner where the chef paired each course with a specific libation. He included an excellent Manhattan with a small batch bourbon and an Italian Vermouth. Inspired by this, I have determinedly pursued the perfectly balanced Manhattan.

“Well,” one may ask, “what makes any drink ‘perfect’?”

The answer is, of course, the one for whom the drink is made. Recipes for the Manhattan from the turn of the 20th Century, call for vermouth in a much higher ratio than those from the last 20 years. In fact, the vermouth in the Manhattan suffered the same fate as vermouth in the Martini – it practically vanished.



The Manhattan is a simple, yet complex drink. Some time back, I noted Gary Regan's discussion of the Manhattan in his book The Joy of Mixology. He points out that the ratio of whiskey to vermouth varies with the chosen ingredients. Anywhere from 2:1 – 2:1/2 whiskey to vermouth. The stronger the flavors of the whiskey, the more vermouth it can handle. The goal is to construct a cocktail that balances the sweet spice of the base whiskey with the complexity of the vermouth.

With that goal in mind, creating your “perfectly balanced” Manhattan will require premium ingredients and some trial and error. In other words, purchase your favorite bourbon or rye along with a good sweet vermouth and start mixing and tasting! I suggest that you start with a whiskey that you enjoy straight. I also suggest that you spring for a couple of different sweet vermouth's, maybe a French and an Italian.



Our Butler Al
serves a
wonderful
Manhattan!

Start building your drink with a high whiskey:vermouth ratio – say 2:1/2 or even 2:1/4. Chill with ice in a mixing glass and taste from a shot glass. You can then add a little more vermouth as you taste. When your ratio is getting close, start thinking about what bitters you would try and any sweetener the drink might need. To try bitters, taste the bitters on your finger followed by a sip from your shot glass. You can do the same with the sweetener.

When you think you are close, stir up a fresh drink and strain into a cocktail glass. What does your nose tell you? What is the first thing you taste with the first sip? What garnish will enhance these? The classic is a brandied cherry and possibly a citrus peel. Here I used Grand Marnier as the sweetener and brandied cherries for the garnish. I did not think that either orange or lemon oils added much.

For the vermouth I chose Carpano Antica, a sweet Italian. I found this quote concerning Carpano Antica from the Wine Enthusiast dated 2011: “This dark, mysterious vermouth is rich, complex and layered, boasting aromas of mint and other herbs, plums and figs, reminiscent of Madeira. The rich flavors are hard to pin down: cocoa, red wine, almonds, bitter marmalade, hints of spice and toffee all play across the palate, finishing with a bracing bitter edge. This delectable sweet vermouth would shine in a Manhattan.” I think that sums up the Carpano Antica!



So, here are my recipes:



Irish Manhattan

While rye and bourbon are the classics in the Manhattan, I don't see any reason not to try an Irish Whiskey. Specifically the Tullamore Dew 10 year old Single Malt. As I've noted before, the Tullamore Dew has the earthy, grassy flavors of Irish whiskey with the flavors of fruit, (apricot, pineapple, raisin) and wood. Just the depth of flavors that blend with vermouth.

- 1 1/2 oz. Tullamore Dew 10 year old Single Malt Irish



Whiskey

- 3/4 oz. Sweet Italian Vermouth
- 1 dash Grand Marnier (1/8 tsp)
- 1 – 2 dashes Angostura Orange Bitters
- brandied cherries for garnish

1. Chill a cocktail glass with ice and water.
2. Stir to combine all ingredients, sans cherries, in a mixing glass with ice.
3. Strain into chilled cocktail glass and garnish with the cherries

Bourbon Manhattan

For the bourbon Manhattan, I used Russell's Reserve 10 Year Old. This is a bit of a lighter bourbon, but still has the sweet and spicy notes you expect from a quality aged bourbon. Note that in addition to using a higher ratio of vermouth, the recipe includes more Grand Marnier.



- 2 oz. Russell's Reserve 10 Year Old Bourbon
- 1 1/2 oz. Italian Vermouth (sweet)
- 1 tsp Grand Marnier
- 1 – 2 dashes Angostura Orange Bitters

- brandied cherries for garnish

1. Chill a cocktail glass with ice and water.
2. Stir to combine all ingredients, sans cherries, in a mixing glass with ice.
3. Strain into chilled cocktail glass and garnish with the cherries

Rye Manhattan

Sazerac is my rye whiskey of choice. Made at the Buffalo Trace Distillery, it is spicy and sweet with flavors of orange peels, pepper and allspice. It blends very well with the Italian Vermouth. Note that this is the same recipe as the Irish Manhattan, just substituting the Irish Whiskey for the rye.



- 1 1/2 oz. Sazerac Rye Whiskey
- 3/4 oz. Italian Vermouth (sweet)
- 1 dash Grand Marnier (1/8 tsp)
- 1 – 2 dashes Angostura Orange Bitters
- brandied cherries for garnish

1. Chill a cocktail glass with ice and water.
2. Stir to combine all ingredients, sans cherries, in a mixing glass with ice.
3. Strain into chilled cocktail glass and garnish with the cherries

When your guest asks for a Manhattan, he or she is probably expecting a drink that is long on the bourbon or rye and very short on the vermouth. It will be up to you to introduce them to your version of the perfectly balanced Manhattan!

Cheers!

Mixology Monday XC



Mixology Monday



Golden Kiss

This month's Mixology Monday theme is "Perfect Symmetry." Hosted by Southern Ash, the idea is to find a balance between two related liquors or liqueurs. His examples included sweet and dry vermouth, bourbon and rye, gin and vodka, and tequila with mezcal. I would like to offer two drinks this month. The first, a bit of a cheat on vermouth and vermouth, is the **Golden Kiss**. A blend of Lillet Blanc and Kina L' Avion D' Or with dry curaçao. Of course Kina Lillet, of 007 fame, is no longer available, so combining Lillet with a quinquina makes some sense, (to me anyway.) I have been playing with Suze and

Kina L' Avion D' Or so the segue to the Golden Kiss was simple. The Lillet and Kina L' Avion D' Or share the fruity taste of orange, marmalade and apricot. While the Lillet has a floral note, the Kina L' Avion D' Or has the bitterness of cinchona. Together with the dry curaçao, they play together nicely. I originally used Suze instead of the dry curaçao, and if you like bitterness, I would suggest you try it, but it will be bitter. Here is the recipe:



- 2 ozs. Chilled Lillet Blanc
- 2 ozs. Chilled Kina L' Avion D' Or
- 1 oz. Dry curacao such as Pierre Ferrand
- 3 or 4 frozen strawberries

1. Combine all ingredients in a chilled champagne flute
2. Serve with the strawberries as ice cubes

My primary offering is the **Autumn Spirit**. This drink combines Irish whiskey with American single malt whiskey and bittersweet burnt honey. I finished it with Fees Brothers Whiskey Barrel- Aged Aromatic Bitters and served it neat in a brandy snifter.

For the whiskeys, I used Tullamore Dew 10 year old Single Malt Irish Whiskey and St Georges Single Malt Whiskey. The Tullamore Dew has the earthy, grassy flavors of Irish whiskey with the flavors of fruit, (apricot, pineapple, raisin) and wood. The St Georges has a forward almond flavor with a floral nose and the taste of cocoa. Having been aged in similar casks (bourbon, sherry and port) the wood flavors blend nicely.

Being partial to bitters forward old fashioned, I thought that burnt honey syrup would be fun to try with whiskey. The burnt honey, which I burned to a dark coffee color, brought

out some of the wood while the honey brought along the floral and grassy notes. The cinnamon, spice and wood flavors of the Fees Brothers Whiskey Barrel-Aged Aromatic Bitters enhanced the earthiness, cocoa and fruit of the whiskeys.



- 1 oz. Tullamore Dew 10 year old Single Malt Irish Whiskey
- 1 oz. St Georges Single Malt Whiskey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. burnt honey syrup (see below)
- 10-12 drops Fees Brothers Whiskey Barrel-Aged Aromatic Bitters

1. Combine all ingredients in a brandy snifter
2. Serve neat



Autumn Spirit

I obviously like this drink. I want to thank Joel at Southern Ash for hosting this month's Mixology Monday XC and for inspiring me to try these combinations.

Burnt Honey Syrup



Burnt Honey Syrup

Equipment:

- Large pot – 8 qts
- Long sleeve jacket/apron/chef's jacket
- Pair of heavy heat proof gloves

Ingredients

- 1 Cup Grade A Honey
 - 1 Cup Water
1. In a large pot with steep sides, heat the honey over high heat stirring frequently. Note: the honey will foam and multiply several times in volume, so use at least an 8 qt pot.
 2. When the honey begins to boil, about 3 minutes, begin stirring constantly. The foam will be so thick that you will only see the color of the honey in the spoon.
 3. Continue to boil, lowering the temperature if needed to keep control of the foam, until the honey is dark brown to black – about 12 minutes.
 4. Slowly add the water. **WARNING:** the water will spit

- molten honey onto exposed skin or your eye. Keep adding water, stirring constantly until incorporated.
5. Remove from heat and allow to cool completely.
 6. Store in the refrigerator.
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Smokin' Nail

I generally use a blended malt scotch for this cocktail. The smoked chai tea really plays along with the background Drambuie. This requires a Smoke Gun.



Smokin' Nail

- 2 ozs. Scotch
 - 1/2 ozs. Drambuie
 - 1 lemon zest
 - 1 dash Jerry Thomas Bitters – sub Angostura
 - 1 tsp. Chai tea
1. Smoke tea in gun with the tube placed in a lidded decanter. When decanter is full of smoke, remove smoke tube and seal.
 2. Chill a single old fashioned glass with ice and water.
 3. In a mixing glass, muddle lemon zest with the Drambuie and bitters

4. Add Scotch and ice. Stir to chill. Strain into smoke filled bottle and reseal. Give the drink a few good shakes in the smokey bottle.
5. Pour drink over fresh ice in the chilled old fashioned glass.
6. You can use the smokey bottle for 2 or 3 drinks.