

The Liquor Dictionary.

Beer

Fermented malt. This brewed cereal grain beverage is one of the more popular liquors in the United States and comes in many varieties from around the world.

Ale: A full-bodied beer with a copper color.

Bock: Usually a seasonal beer produced in Germany with a high alcohol percentage (6-12 percent). A heavy rich beer with a dark brown color.

Cr amy Ale: A highly carbonated beer that is produced by a combination of ale and lager

Lager: A light dry carbonated beer with a clear coloring. What most people think of as a beer. The most popular type of beer.

Dry: A less bitter lager.

Ice: A stronger lager.

Malt: A strong flavored, high alcohol content beer that ranges in flavor and color.

Pilsner: Crisp, dry clean tasting beer with a light color. It's name comes from Pilsner Czechoslovakia.

Porter: A very heavy bitter full-bodied ale with a dark brown coloring.

Stout: The darkest and heaviest of the beers, (Guinness Stout).

Brandy

Distilled from fermented fruit (usually grapes).

The best known types are Cognac and Armagnac, both produced in the region of France that bear their name.

Calvados(Normandy) and Applejack(United States) are two Apple-flavored brandies which are also very popular.

Other popular fruit-flavored brandy includes Apricot, Blackberry, and Peach.

Below are the definitions of each letter on a brandy label you might find.

C- Cognac	E- Especially	F- Fine	O- Old
P- Pale	S- Special	V-Very	X- Extra

Proof: 80-84

Gin

Distilled from grain. It's distinct flavor comes from Juniper Berries, along with a variety of other mixed herbs and spices.

Dry gin: A less sweet gin.

Golden Gin: A dry gin with a golden color due to the aging process and storage barrels.

Sloe Gin: A liqueur that is made from Blackthorn bushes.

Proof: 80-94

Rum

Distilled from sugar cane and molasses. First produced in the West Indies in the 17th century, many of the main producers still remain there today. There are two main variations, light and dark.

Light Rum: The original rum from the barrels, less flavorful with a white or gold color. Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Dark Rum: A rich syrupy-flavored rum from added caramel. Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica are the major producers.

Proof: 80-85

Tequila

Distilled from Agave Tequilana or Blue Agave plant. Tequila is the national alcoholic beverage of Mexico. Drunk mostly straight as a shot or mixed with Triple Sec and Lime Juice as a Margarita. You can judge a good Tequila by the golden coloring which comes from proper aging and storing.

Proof: 80

Vodka

Distilled from potatoes or corn and wheat. Traditional alcoholic beverage of the Baltic states, Poland, and Russia. Today Vodka is produced all over the world and has become the most popular mixed beverage in the United States.

The Russian Vodkas are usually distilled from potatoes while the American vodkas are distilled from corn and wheat. The filtering process is what gives Vodka its flavor.

Proof: 80-110

Whiskey

Distilled from the mash grains of corn, rye, barley, or wheat. There are six major variations from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, and United States.

The blended whiskeys are the result of two or more different distillers blending their whiskeys together.

Bourbon: Distilled from at least 51 corn grain mash and aged for more than 4 years old. Straight bourbon has a fuller flavor and body than blended Bourbon, which has been blended with another whiskey or liquor. Bourbon gets its name from Bourbon county in Kentucky where it was originated.

Proof: 80

Canadian Whiskey: Distilled from rye, corn, and barley. Canadian Whiskey is always blended under the regulation of the Canadian government. A lighter and smoother whiskey than Bourbon.

Proof: 80

Irish Whiskey: A combination of grain whiskeys and barely malt whiskeys. This whiskey is has a smooth barely flavor with a sharp after taste. Heavier than scotch.

Proof: 86

Corn Whiskey: Distilled from at least 80 percent of corn grain mash.

Proof: 80

Rye Whiskey: Rye whiskey is distilled from a mash of grain containing not less than at 51 percent of rye. Similar to Bourbon in color but heavier flavor and taste.

Scotch Whiskey: Are either single malt or a combination of blended grain and barley whiskeys. The smooth and smokey flavor comes from drying malted barley over peat fires. The exports from scotch are at least four year old, the older the better the flavor.

Proof: 80-86

Wine

A short description of the different cultivars available.

Blanc de Noir

A soft pink wine made from red grapes that are gently crushed releasing limited colour and tannins. It is generally off dry.

Cabernet Merlot

This is an extremely popular blend. It has a smooth light texture and is an elegant easy drinking wine.

Cabernet Sauvignon

This is a classic grape originally from Bordeaux. The thick skin gives a wine of intense depth of colour with high levels of tannin that ages well. Hints of blackcurrants.

Chardonnay

This is an extremely popular grape and planted worldwide. Characterised by a rich, ripe creamy-buttery fruit flavour. It matures very well in oak.

Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc

Two of the very best noble cultivars blended together to achieve a rounded fruity but dry wine.

Chenin Blanc

It is originally from the Loire Valley, France. This grape produces all styles of white wine from dry and semi-sweet. It is widely known for its easy drinking qualities.

Cinsault

Originally from the Rhone region. This grape is light in tannins and its fruitiness and high acidity make an ideal constituent in a blend.

Colombard

Originally from the Cognac region. It is used in the production of brandy and is popular as a constituent in blends.

Gewurz-traminer

This is originally from Italy. This wine is semi-sweet with intense flavours and spicy aromas. It has a hint of lychees.

Late Harvest

This is a full-bodied sweet wine. Harvested late in the season to allow for extra sweetness and colour.

Merlot

Another classic wine from Bordeaux. It is softer and easier to drink than Cabernet Sauvignon. It generally matures much quicker.

Pinot Noir

A classic grape from Burgundy. When young the wine has an attractive red fruit characteristic that develops into deeper aromas as it matures.

Pinotage

It is almost exclusive to South Africa. It produces good quality wine that is fruity with a spicy aroma and has a hint of cinnamon.

Riesling

This is a classic German grape. It is a very versatile wine from steely dry and light to a rich luscious semi-sweet wine.

Rosé

This is a delicate blend of the finest red and white grapes. It is generally semi-sweet, but can be dry.

Sauvignon Blanc

It is popular worldwide but important in Bordeaux. It produces a distinctive herbaceous dry wine with a hint of gooseberry.

Shiraz

A classic Rhone variety. It is full bodied with intense fruity flavours. It has a hint of blackberries and is often blended with Cabernet Sauvignon.

Stein

This German style wine is semi-sweet with deep fruity flavours.

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