

Boozy news



Tiny bubbles

Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blanc is only produced when all the conditions, essential to its unique style, are met. It's made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes from the most renowned vineyards of the Côte des Blancs. The Champagne is fragrant and toasty on the nose, with hints of spice, sweet apple, lemon, mild tobacco and tea leaves. Its flavours are dominated by fresh citrus with an end note of vanilla. Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blanc retails for R2 377.76.

A full-bodied beauty

Hancock's President's Reserve is a single-barrel bourbon that is deep amber in colour and the nose is light and sweet. The body is full, and the palate shows a nice, if simple, balance of honey, clove, a slight fruitiness and a dash of spice. Drink it on the rocks or as a Manhattan. Available at around R689.73.



Rich and aromatic

Sao Gabriel's Pils is unpasteurised, which allows for a fuller, richer taste that is also delicate, sharp and aromatic. A perfect match for spicy foods, it cuts right through the spices, finds the heart of the dish and cleanses the palate for the next bite. Retails at around R55.



Suave Sauvignon Blanc

Peter Falke Signature Sauvignon Blanc is a harmonious balance of passion fruit and pineapple with hints of citrus aromas and a ripe nectarine taste sensation. Signature wines are only released in years of exceptional harvest. The wines are produced from the vineyard's premier grapes, pre-selected by the winemaker and left to ferment in high quality stainless steel tanks. Available at around R100. For more information visit www.peterfalkewines.co.za



A marvelous Monster

Compass Box 17yr Old Peat Monster is the new favourite of peat whisky lovers. Peat Monster is a blended malt, blended from one of Islay's most prominent distilleries, along with a well-known highland malt. The older highland whisky gives Peat Monster a sweet rich layer and adds structure which makes it more accessible while the young Islay gives Peat Monster a serious level of smoke. Sells for around R460 at good liquor stores.

A wealth of flavour

12 years of ageing in small French oak casks has resulted in Van Ryn's 12 Year Old Distillers Reserve having generous nose of intense gooseberry tones, cherry and vanilla. The prominent wood character is well balanced with strong dried fruit flavours that develop into hints of coffee on the aftertaste. Retails at around R460.



Cultured Cognac

Hennessy, X.O. Magnificence is considered the flagship of the Hennessy range. Hennessy X.O. is aged for up to 30 years and is distinguished by its luxurious, powerful character. Hennessy X.O. possesses a masculine strength that emanates from notes of old leather, black pepper and cloves, while a generous combination of bright yet gentle notes of cinnamon, vanilla and crystallised fruit complement the initial explosion of flavour. X.O. Magnificence is available at fine liquor merchants for around R1 900.



MICRO BREWERY ROUND UP

Mitchell's Knysna Brewery was established in 1983 and has been brewing high quality beers and ales ever since. Forester's Draught, Bosun's Bitter, Raven Stout and Ninety Shilling Ale are all live, unpasteurised products and contain only the finest available ingredients. For more information visit www.mitchellsknysnabrewery.com or call (044) 382 4685. They also offer brewery tours and beer tastings.

Gilroy's Brewery in Muldersdrift boasts a range of unique, all-natural beers. The strongest of them all is the aptly named "Serious". This dark ale has a potent 7.75 percent alcohol content. Gilroy's Favourite is a well bodied, light pale ale. Gilroy's Traditional and Gilroy's Lager comprise the rest of the brewery's range ensuring that there is something for everyone. For more information visit www.gilroybeers.co.za or call (011) 796 3020.

Shongweni Brewery is nestled in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, in KwaZulu-Natal. The brewery's flagship product is Robson's East Coast Ale, its very own South African real ale. The brewery is founded on the premise that natural beer offers unlimited opportunities for matching flavours with foods, spending time with friends and family, or just relaxing on your own and contemplating the good things in life. The brewery offers a diverse variety of brews including East Coast Ale, Wheat Beer, Fruit Beer, Durban Pale Ale and West Coast Ale. For more information visit www.shongwenibrewery.com or call (031) 769 2061.