

## Holiday Cheer!

Well, the holidays are here again and with them come unexpected guests, expected guests and the odd time unsuspecting guests!? Sometimes being a guest, you don't know what to expect when coming over to someone's house with regards to the style of their hospitality.

Have no fear host or guest! Here are some sure fire winners that will put some Yule tide fun in anyone's glass.

Punch is a great way to keep things on the up and up. Have some mix that can be added together on hand to make a large punch that can be served as an alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage. This way a couple of minutes mixing will alleviate you from having to get up and down several times instead of visiting with friends...unless you prefer the solitude of your kitchen over the loud conversations in the living room!

Ride programs are out in full force right now so it is always a good idea to be a thoughtful host and have something that tastes great for those who cannot indulge.

Egg nog is another holiday favorite that can be used in a variety of recipes that utilize rum, amaretto, frangelico or chocolate. I would suggest keeping your egg nog very cold and you might want to have some skim milk on hand to thin it out a little if you are adding some liqueurs to it.

Garnishes at this time can be festive and decorative. As avid readers of mine know, I only prescribe garnishes when they add to the drink but I will make an exception this time. Mint leaves, frozen cranberries, jello cubes and sugar rims can all be used with your favorite drinks to dress them up for company. Green maraschino cherries have been known to be added with their red friends to liven up a white Russian at my bar this time of year. Mint leaves floating in a cosmo make a great garnish and add a complex nose that is very refreshing. Also don't forget about mojitos...they aren't just for the pool anymore! A cranberry and mint mojito looks and tastes great.

### Cherry Blossom Punch

In parts

1 part Ruby Red Grapefruit juice

1.5 parts Lychee Juice

½ Part Vodka

Garnish with frozen cranberries or sparkling berry jello cubes

### Brown Egg

2 oz. Egg Nog

1 oz. Skim Milk

½ oz. Kahlua

¼ oz. Amaretto

½ oz. Vodka

Build on ice and serve in a rock glass