

## Sangria

Ah yes....the Mexican Riviera....white sand beaches....parrots perched in sunbathed palm trees and a wonderful fruity and refreshing concoction that helps us hang on....welcome to Sangriaville!

Sangria is a fantastic summer drink for sharing. The great thing about Sangrias is that they can be made ahead of time (hours ahead of time) which allows you, the host, to pour and visit with guests without the numerous trips to the bar for refills.

Pitchers used for this drink should be able to hold 2 750ml. bottles easily. You will need fresh fruit, orange juice, red wine, ice and a zester. My personal favorites involve some other ingredients such as port, both white and red wines as well as brandy and fruit liqueurs.

When adding fruit, make sure that you slice them into nice size pieces that will allow for the juices to mix with the liquid easily. When zesting, I always swirls the fruit peel into "s" shaped strips that look like streamers in the pitcher. Raspberries and blueberries work very well as do strawberries. Citrus fruit are great for adding a certain zest to the mix and colour for presentation.

Fruit Liqueurs that work well are Hpnotiq (passion fruit, cognac and vodka), Blue Curacao (sweet orange flavoured liqueur), Lemoncello (lemon flavour) and Grand Marnier (strong orange flavouring). The idea to add liqueurs will bring out the acids from the fruit slices and enhance the overall flavouring.

Here are a few of my favorite recipes:

### Million Dollar Sangria

- 1 750ml. bottle of Ruffino Chianti Reserve
- 1 ½ cups of Taylor Fladgate 25 Yr Port
- ½ cup orange juice
- ½ cup of Hpnotiq
- 2 oranges sliced
- 2 lemons peeled (use peel)
- 2 limes peeled (use peel)
- ½ cup of sliced strawberries
- ½ cup of blueberries
- ½ cup of raspberries
- 2 teaspoons of sugar
- 3 cups of ice

### Citrus Twist Sangria

- 1 750ml. Bottle of 2 Oceans white
- 1 cup of White Port

½ cup of lemonade  
½ cup of Hpnotiq  
1/8 cup of Blue Curacao  
1 Star fruit sliced  
1 Orange sliced  
1 lemon sliced  
Sugar to taste  
1 cup of soda water  
3 cups of ice