

Vodka Not Just Russian anymore.

Vodka, has become the second best selling spirit in Canada so it is no wonder that so many brands are trying to capitalize on the growth of this highly versatile liquor. There is a lot to know about Vodka and I think no other product has so many misconceptions, so I am going to clear up a few common ones in this piece.

Vodka today is made all around the world and is created using a base from potato, rye, wheat, corn or even a combination of several. Each vodka has a distinct flavour and this flavour is partially created from the base product. Vodkas made from potato and corn tend to be on the sweeter side. This brings me to my next point. All vodkas have a flavour, they do not all taste the same. Good vodka has a distinct flavour that should be clean with little or no burn at the finish. Great vodkas can be sipped with a round flavour that is subtle yet crisp to the palate. Typically the brands that have a great finish are distilled at least 3 times and use various high tech filtration methods such as charcoal and diamond filters and one is even filtered in pressurized tanks to remove any impurities such as esters and conjoiners from the final product. These impurities are exactly what causes the symptoms commonly attributed to a hangover.

Vodka does not have to be kept in the freezer although this is a great way to see how pure your vodka is. Essentially, the more viscous the vodka when cold the higher the purity rating. When pouring a vodka at room temperature over a single ice cube notice how it slides across the cube. The vodka should not simply pour over the ice it should coat the cube and the glass. On the ice the higher the quality. Next swirl the vodka in your glass and notice the legs that are produced. The vodka should coat the glass and leave pronounced legs on the sides.

Flavoured vodkas have certainly been a huge hit and for good reason. The flavour of the vodka can be so natural and pronounced that liqueurs may not have to be used when making cocktails or martinis with them. Naturally for the inexperienced bartender who has a limited stock at home this is a great way to make some fantastic drinks with only one spirit and a juice.