

Discover the Taste of Old Ceylon

Date: 8 December 2010
Circ: N/A



Ceylon Arrack is a rare spirit made from the sap of coconut flowers

An Ancient Spirit

Ceylon Arrack is a rare handcrafted spirit from Sri Lanka that is 100% natural and made from the sap of coconut flowers hand collected by skilled men known as Toddy Tappers who climb the coconut trees that can grow up to 40ft tall or more. The sap then ferments naturally and is distilled and aged in traditional Sri Lankan Halmilla wood to create the spirit's delicate taste and long length.

"An exciting and elegant new spirit that works beautifully in classic cocktails," Bar Manager, Luca Cordiglieri, China Tang, The Dorchester Hotel.



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For the first time in Ceylon Arrack's history this spirit has been brought to the UK and is on sale at exclusively at Harvey Nichols for £27.50 until 30 December when it will be sold by other carefully selected retailers.

A Category of it's Own

Ceylon Arrack enjoys a spirit category of its own, set apart from the rum, whisky, tequila categories due to the nature of its production process and the resulting unique spirit. Ceylon Arrack is one of the oldest spirits in the world and historically revered to by the local islanders of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) as a 'Drink of the Gods'. It was so highly esteemed that it was served only to royal families in the days of the kings.

A Timeless Art: The Toddy Tapper

Toddy Tappers scale coconut trees along the palm-studded coastline of Sri Lanka to tap the stem of the coconut flower branches with their wooden toddy tapper batons to initiate the capillary action that yields sap, which is collected in clay pots. Due to natural yeasts in the sap when it is collected off the tree, it is possibly the only spirit in the world made from natural fermentation. It must be distilled within 24 hours to ensure over fermentation does not occur, turning the collected sap into vinegar. It takes the sap harvested from 4 to 6 coconut trees to create a single bottle of Ceylon Arrack.

A Family Owned Business Since 1924

Ceylon Arrack was first made by the family owned Rockland Distilleries established in 1924. Attention to the distillation process, ageing and blending is still overseen by a member of the de Silva Wijeyeratne family. There is an art to the distillation process of Ceylon Arrack and over the years Rockland Distilleries have become recognised internationally as master distillers of this unique spirit. Thankfully the distillery narrowly survived the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami but if the distillery were ever to close the brand and spirit would be lost forever.

How to Drink Ceylon Arrack

Originally mixed with coconut water or ginger beer by locals in Sri Lanka, Ceylon Arrack suits classic, short cocktails like the Martini or the Old-fashioned. Ceylon Arrack is a very delicate spirit with the nose of a December 2010 tequilla blended with rum and a dash of brandy and on the palate soft, sweet light notes of coconut and a lasting finish.

Either serve straight over ice or use in traditional cocktails to give them a contemporary twist.

Spice Infusion Ceylon Arrack Cocktail for Christmas

IF you're still planning Christmas features, Ceylon Arrack has designed a limited edition Spice Infusion Sachet of cinnamon, cloves and cardamom pods. Simply decant the Ceylon Arrack into a container and add the spice sachet and fresh orange peel. Seal the container and infuse for 12 hours and shake every 2 to 4 hours. Once infused, pour the Ceylon Arrack back into the original bottle.

Long Term Commitment to Sri Lankan Wildlife and Environment

Ceylon Arrack is the spirit of Sri Lanka, a country home to exotic and precious wildlife including elephants, leopards, egg-laying turtles and more than 400 species of birds. The brand is committed to the preservation of wildlife on the island; the particular projects being explored are to protect the only 4 remaining tusker elephants in the country hunted for the ivory trade. From every bottle of Ceylon Arrack sold around the world a contribution is made towards wildlife conservation in Sri Lanka.

With commitment to preservation of the environment from the start, Rockland Distilleries are committed to making their production processes as green and environmentally responsible as possible to minimize their carbon footprint.

Ceylon Arrack is available from Harvey Nichols priced at £27.50 per bottle (and specialist retailers from January 2011). Ceylon Arrack is already served in prestigious cocktail bars in London and will be more widely available in destination bars throughout the country this winter.

For more product information visit www.ceylonarrack.com