

Booze Schmooze: Problematic Drinks

Compiled By: Rabbi Nissan Zibell
Adar 5784/March 2024



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Problematic casks:

- Sherry
(Also known as Apera Cask)
- Port
- Shiraz
- Madeira
- Sauternes
- Cognac
- Bordeaux
- Dual finish
- Pinot Noir
- Olorosso
- French cask
- Pedro Ximénez
- European cask
- Double oak/ cask
- Triple oak/ cask
- Double matured/finished
- Triple matured/finished



Liqueur:

All liqueurs require a reliable hashgacha due to added flavoring.



Beer:

It's best to drink certified beers.

Most uncertified unflavored beers

from the popular large scale brands

are assumed kosher. The moment any flavor, lactose, or other kosher sensitive ingredients are present it needs a Reliable Hashgacha.

Even for unflavored beer, there can be

equipment issues which render the beer not kosher. It is important to investigate if the brewery produces non-kosher flavored beers (oyster, bacon, clam, or lobster etc.) before consuming.



Bourbon:

If a company is Jewish owned, which is very common, there is an issue of "Chametz She'avar Alav HaPesach" (Chametz that remained in a Jew's possession over Pesach, Without being sold to a Non-Jew) which is forbidden for one to have any benefit from. See more below.

Get Clarity:

Click [here](#) for a short audio class. access helpful resources, & constantly updated lists.

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These are just a few examples of brands that are owned by Jews over Pesach and are not acceptable.



Buffalo Trace does have a special run certified by the cRc Chicago that says Kosher on it. This is not Kosher for Pesach. it is Chametz. However, it is NOT "Chametz She'avar Alav HaPesach" (Chametz that remained in a Jew's possession over Pesach), and therefore it IS acceptable.



For a list of problematic bourbons,
and for bourbons that have no concern, click on links below for the
cRc Chicago's Liquor List at <https://consumer.crckosher.org/liquor/>

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Flavors:

Any type of added flavor present in any alcoholic beverage (including spiced rum or the like) requires it to have a reliable hashgacha. When a bottle describes experiencing notes of unique flavors like spices, vanilla, floral, cereal, and smoke etc., it may not be referring to added flavors. Rather, it may be describing natural flavors attributed to the grain or barrel. Careful reading of the label will indicate if flavors have actually been added.

Possibly Made From Grape or Whey (Dairy) Alcohol:

Check description.

Especially when coming from France, Ireland & New Zealand):



- Gin & Vodka

Usually Made from Grape Alcohol:

- Ouzo
- Arak
- Raki

Grape Alcohol- Based Alcoholic Beverages.

- Cognac
- Brandy
- Marc
- Grappa
- Tsipouro
- Pisco
- Vermouth
- Armagnac



Israeli Wines & Shemita:

Certainly, all wines, including those from Israel, must have a reliable Hashgacha. It's crucial to be cautious with Post-Shemita wines as even typically certified wines, might not carry the same certification when made with Shemita produce. Even though the Shemita year has passed, wines from popular Israeli brands might still be made from Shemita produce, especially those from 2022. Check the label carefully usually on the back in small print. These wines may originate from Heter Mechirah produce (a controversial practice) or the Otzar Bais Din system, where the Beis Din manages fields to make the produce available to the public. Handling these wines requires caution and can have various complications, so it's best to avoid purchasing them altogether. For more on the topic, see pictures of examples below as well as links to classes with more explanation.

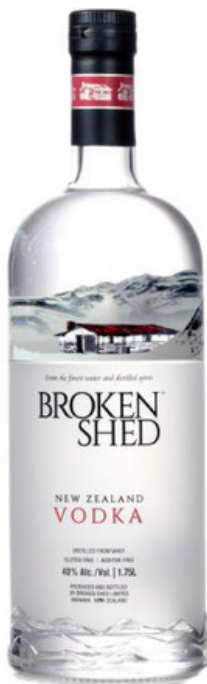
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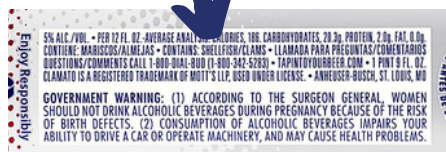
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Made from grape alcohol.



Made from whey (dairy).



Contains shellfish/clams



Descriptions such as "spiced Rum" is considered flavoring and needs proper hashgacha



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The following are a few examples of Otzar Beis Din, and has Kedusha of Shvi'is



Says Otzar Beis Din in abbreviation



Clearly Says Otzar Beis Din



For more explanation on the topic, click to listen on these classes below.

[The Why's of Wine \(Part 2\)](#)

[Produce of Israel \(Part 3\) Shemittah](#)

