



COMBATANT GENTLEMEN

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UNHEMMED

HOLIDAY 2016 VOL. IV

WHY BOOZE IS

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

By Daniel Scheffler

THESE THINGS WE KNOW: ONE, FINDING THE RIGHT GIFT CAN BE A PAIN IN THE ASS. TWO, EVERYONE LOVES BOOZE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT 'TIS THE SEASON. WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON UPON US, YOU'RE NO DOUBT LIKELY TO FACE A RANGE OF GIFT-GIVING SCENARIOS AHEAD OF YOU. AND JUST LIKE A TOAST IS ALWAYS NECESSARY, SO TOO, IS A THOUGHTFUL GIFT. AND WHY NOT MAKE THAT GIFT ONE THAT EVERYONE IS GOING IS GOING TO LOVE? SEE WHAT WE'RE SAYING?

"Besides the fact that I'm an industry person, I've always loved giving spirits as a gift," says Tim Cooper from In Good Spirits, "To me a bottle of liquor is a gift of celebration, welcoming and occasion. In addition, a spirit has staying power, meaning you don't have to worry about that bottle of booze going bad." Delicious and practical, our thoughts exactly.

So instead of just walking into your local bottle store and grabbing whatever just fits your price range, or has a nice label - a little thought goes a really long way. And while you could always pick up a personally engraved bottle of "Ace of Spades" and make like Bruno Mars with your 24K Magic, just going for something unique and tasty always works too.

So if you're looking for something unique, Cooper recommended a few interesting choices for the holiday season:

Armanac



An unexpected but delicious choice for the person who loves bourbon or whiskey, it's typically a bit drier than most Cognacs and has more fruit flavors.

Mezcal



The smokiness and complexity of a mezcal the perfect gift for the scotch lover. Plus it's a terrific stand in with tequila cocktails if you want something earthy and unique.

Amaro



Every home should have a little digestif on hand for those big celebration dinners, and the Italians have known this for years.

HOLIDAY TIP #39

ONE OBLIGATORY GLASS OF EGGNOG IS ENOUGH.

Obviously gifting whiskey is a no-fail option, it's something that nearly everyone can appreciate. But why not give 'em something familiar, yet unique? For us, Japanese whiskey is the new new. Now rivaling some of the finest Scotch from Scotland, Japanese-style whiskeys are perfect for the Ron Burgundy in your life and offer similar flavor profiles but in a lighter, more delicate style. Alternatively, rice whiskeys like Kikori are great for fans of sake. Ann Soh Woods, the Founder of Kikori Whiskey, says:

"RICE WHISKIES OFFERS A LIGHTER, MORE DELICATE AROMA AND FLAVOR THAN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WHISKIES MADE IN THE SCOTCH STYLE; SO IT IS A UNIQUE NEW WAY TO ENJOY WHISKEY."

STREAM THESE UNEXPECTED HOLIDAY MOVIES

★★★★★ 2016 R

CHRISTMAS VACATION? A CLASSIC. ELF? ONE OF OUR FAVORITES. THIS YEAR THOUGH, WHY NOT MIX IT UP WITH A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE NOT-SO-EXPECTED HOLIDAY MOVIES?

DIE HARD 1 AND 2

Action movies don't get much better than when John McClane is involved and these Christmas Eve-set action blockbusters are the perfect post-dinner, drink-in-hand family viewing.

SCROOGED

All hail Bill Murray. Before he was randomly bartending in Brooklyn and pranking innocent strangers he was posting up in classics like this hilarious remake of A Christmas Carol.

THE REF

Darkly hilarious, The Ref features a prime Dennis Miller and is definitely one of those against-the-grain holiday movies and is an underrated classic.

SOME GOOD ADVICE FOR THE NEW YEAR

By: Daniel Scheffler

As you enjoy the holiday madness and celebrate another year in the books, don't forget to hit pause and take some time to appreciate what you've accomplished and look ahead to the year upcoming. A lot of people make silly resolutions (then quickly leave them behind) but one we can definitely get behind as we head into 2017 is to resolve to consider (and reconsider) what exactly it means to be a gentleman. And so, we asked a few of our favorite modern day gentlemen for a bit of advice on what it means to be a gentleman going into the new year, and beyond.

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“MY FATHER WAS A TRUE GENTLEMAN. HE, AS I, BELIEVE THAT THE QUALITIES OF INTEGRITY, COURTESY AND RESPECT DEFINE THE MEASURE OF A MAN AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GENTLEMAN.

— ROBERT SONNEMAN, DESIGNER, NEW YORK CITY, NY.

A GENTLEMAN LISTENS CAREFULLY BEFORE SPEAKING, LEANS INTO THE CONVERSATION, ENTERS THE REVOLVING DOOR AHEAD OF YOU SO HE CAN DO THE WORK PUSHING THE DOOR, AND SLIDES INTO THE UBER FIRST, BECAUSE WHO WANTS TO BE SEEN DOING THAT AWKWARD SLIDE ACROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE?”

— BRAD ZIMOR, CO-FOUNDING PRINCIPAL, ARCHITECTURE PLUS INFORMATION (A+I) NEW YORK CITY, NY.

“A gentleman puts down the phone, looks you in the eye, opens the door for you, and if his blazer is nearing retirement, will lay it over a puddle for you to cross.”

— DAG FOLGER, CO-FOUNDING PRINCIPAL, ARCHITECTURE PLUS INFORMATION (A+I) NEW YORK CITY, NY.

“THE ULTIMATE GENTLEMAN IS A MAN WHO SETS AND LIVES BY STRONG VALUES AND ASSERTS THEM IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS LIFE'S PURPOSE. MANY MEN FOCUS ONLY ON THE EXTERNAL SYMBOLS OF BEING A GENTLEMAN; MY ADVICE IS TO SET AND LIVE BY VALUES THAT PROMOTE YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE, AND TO DO SO IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. THIS WILL ENSURE YOUR INNER GENTLEMAN SHINES THROUGH, SHINES BRIGHTLY AND ENDURES.”

“Being a gentleman is all about the little things. At this time of year, it's about cooking for your family and for your neighbors, and I always make a little something extra to give away; food, spices, I think it's so important to share things that you wouldn't otherwise be exposed to. It's something I learned in Ethiopia, where I'm originally from, to you share with those around you. Share your heritage - that's being a true gentleman.”

— MARCUS SAMUELSSON, CHEF AND OWNER, RED ROOSTER HARLEM & STREETBIRD ROTISSERIE, NEW YORK CITY, NY.

“BEING MORE KIND, SELF-AWARE AND PATIENT IS A WORTHY GOAL FOR THE COMING YEAR.”

— NIKHIL PAUL, DESIGNER AND OWNER, PAUL MATTER STUDIO, NEW DELHI, INDIA.

— ROBERT HANSON, JOHN HARDY CEO, BALI, INDONESIA.

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