



And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails

By Wayne Curtis

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One spirit, Ten cocktails, and Four Centuries of American History

And a Bottle of Rum tells the raucously entertaining story of America as seen through the bottom of a drinking glass. With a chapter for each of ten cocktails—from the grog sailors drank on the high seas in the 1700s to the mojitos of modern club hoppers—Wayne Curtis reveals that the homely spirit once distilled from the industrial waste of the exploding sugar trade has managed to infiltrate every stratum of New World society.

Curtis takes us from the taverns of the American colonies, where rum delivered both a cheap wallop and cash for the Revolution, to the plundering pirate ships off the coast of Central America, to the watering holes of pre-Castro Cuba, and to the kitsch-laden tiki bars of 1950s America. Here are sugar barons and their armies conquering the Caribbean, Paul Revere stopping for a nip during his famous ride, Prohibitionists marching against “demon rum,” Hemingway fattening his liver with Havana daiquiris, and today’s bartenders reviving old favorites like Planter’s Punch. In an age of microbrewed beer and single-malt whiskeys, rum—once the swill of the common man—has found its way into the tasting rooms of the most discriminating drinkers.

Awash with local color and wry humor, *And a Bottle of Rum* is an affectionate toast to this most American of liquors, a chameleon spirit that has been constantly reinvented over the centuries by tavern keepers, bootleggers, lounge lizards, and marketing gurus. Complete with cocktail recipes for would-be epicurean time-travelers, this is history at its most intoxicating.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Download and Read Free Online *And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails* By Wayne Curtis

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Like a great barroom raconteur, the author of this engaging treatise regales his audience with piquant opinions, colorful trivia, lush rhetorical turns ("[t]he first taste washes over me and brings to mind the scene in *Wizard of Oz* in which the black-and-white world suddenly bursts into color") and an exalted, occasionally inflated, sense of liquor's place in the greater scheme of things. A travel writer and contributing editor to *Preservation*, Curtis follows rum's checkered 400-year career through various incarnations, from the cheap, caustic "kill-devil" that fortified 17th-century pirates (Blackbeard was said to enjoy a glass of flaming rum mixed with gunpowder) to today's mojitos, made from palatable, if bland, mass market rums. His profiles of rum-based cocktails (with an all-important appendix of recipes) serve as starting points for excursions on such topics as slavery in the West Indies, the temperance movement, Ernest Hemingway's epic daiquiri binges and the rise and fall of the tiki bar. Curtis's grander pronouncements ("Rum embodies America's laissez-faire attitude: It is whatever it wants to be") are true only in the groggiest sense, but readers who come along on this charming barhop through cultural history will toast them nonetheless. (July)

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Review

Toasts to *And a Bottle of Rum*

"*And a Bottle of Rum* is a fascinating tale of cultural metamorphosis, tracing rum's remarkable journey from colonial rotgut to SoHo cocktail. A book with as many revelations about American history as about this archetypally American drink." —Jack Turner, author of *Spice: The History of a Temptation*

"History never tasted so good. What Herbert Asbury did for the gangs of New York, Wayne Curtis does for rum: The profiteers who traded it, the pirates who raided it, the underclass who guzzled it, the mixologists who exalted it, and the corporations who homogenized it—Curtis tells their tale with style and sweep in a tour de force of social history, urban anthropology, and cocktail 'alcoholology.' A delight from first sip to last." —Jeff Berry, author of *Beachbum Berry's Grog Log*, *Intoxical!*, and *Taboo Table*

"*And a Bottle of Rum* reveals the facts behind rum's colorful history while telling a great story of rebellion and rumbustion!" —Dale DeGroff, author of *The Craft of the Cocktail*

"Wayne Curtis breaks fascinating new ground in this very palatable history of the world-through-rum-colored glasses. The writing shows what makes modern journalism so great: clean, succinct, inclusive smoothness—not unlike great rum—and Curtis is a virtuoso at it." —Ted "Dr. Cocktail" Haigh, author of *Vintage Spirits and Forgotten Cocktails*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Wayne Curtis was the spirits and cocktails columnist for *The Atlantic* magazine for eight years, and has also written about drinks for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Imbibe*, *The Daily Beast*, and *The American Scholar*. In 2002 Curtis was named Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year by the Society of American Travel Writers. He lives in New Orleans and Maine. Visit his website at www.waynecurtis.com.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Loris Beal:

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Carl Kile:

This And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails is great e-book for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen minute right but this book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt in which?

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