



Alcoholic Beverage List

The following represents a comprehensive list of alcoholic beverages and their kosher status. The alcoholic beverage industry is complex, and there are numerous pitfalls that can impact the kosher status of products. This industry is highly secretive in terms of what ingredients are actually used; coupled with labeling laws that do not require ingredients to be declared in the same way food products are labeled, it requires expertise in the industry to determine what is kosher and what is problematic.

Beer

Unflavored Beers

All unflavored beers, domestic and imported are acceptable, even without a Kosher certification. This applies to non-alcoholic and dark beers as well.

For those interested in beer with a hechsher, there are a number of companies who are presently kosher certified:

Anheiser-Busch (OU)

Coors (OU)

Sam Adams (Star K)

Flavored Beers

Many breweries have introduced specialty “flavored beers” that have flavoring additives. These require proper kosher certification.

The following flavored beers are currently certified Kosher (under the Vaad of Greater Detroit - even without a hechsher on the product).

Saranac

Brooklyn Brewery

Pete's Brewing

Matt Brewing

The following flavored beers from Samuel Adams, The Boston Beer Company, are Star-K certified, even without the Star-K on the label.

Cherry Wheat

Cranberry Lambic

Holiday Porter

(Note – flavored drinks like hard lemonades require certification)



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Bourbon

Straight Bourbon and Sour Mash, which is a variety of Bourbon, are acceptable.

Some examples of Bourbons (all acceptable) are:

Bakers	Jim Beam	Old Granddad
Basil Hayden	Knob Creek	Old Weller
Bookers	Maker's Mark	Wild Turkey
Jack Daniel's	Old Crow	

Brandy & Cognac

All brandy and cognac require certification since both are made from wine.

Some Kosher Brandies and their certification:

Boukha Fig (OU)	Jelinek – Pear Brandy (OU)
Carmel (OU)	Spirit of Solomon (Hisachdus-CRC)
Herzog (OU)	Tishbi (OU)

Drink Mixes

Drink mixers require certification; some brands available that are kosher include:

- Coco Lopez (OU)
- Daily's (OU)
- Goya brand Cream of Coconut or Coconut Milk – when labeled "Product of Dominican Republic"
- Holland House (OU)
- Mr & Mrs T's (OU)
- Metropolitan Martini (OU) – flavored martini mixers
- Rose's – grenadine and lime (OU)
- Sauza Margarita Mixers (OU)
- Stirrings (OU)
- TGI Fridays Mixers (OU)

Gin

Unflavored Gin is acceptable. (Note: Sloe Gin is a liqueur and requires certification.)

Gordon's Flavored Gin (all flavors) produced in the USA, is Kosher certified by the cRc.



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Liqueurs

Liqueurs are *flavored beverages* that generally have lower alcohol content and are sometimes referred to as an aperitif or cordial. All liqueurs require certification.

Brands that bear certification on the label and may be used (*Caution*: check each label; some flavors of a particular brand might not be certified, and some may be Dairy)

Amaretto Disaronno (OU)
Bartenura (OU)
Carmel (OU)
Frangelico (OU)
Godiva (OU, some dairy)
Herman Jansen (OU)
Kedem (OU)

Leroux (OU)
Monfort (OU)
Peter Cherry Heering (OU)
Sabra (OU)
Starbucks (regular dark is OU even without the symbol; white chocolate is OU-D)

Some Common Liqueurs that are *not kosher certified* and therefore are not recommended:

B&B Liqueur
Bailey's Irish Cream
Benedictine
Cointreau
Gold Schlager

Grand Marnier
Kirschwasser
Llord's
Ouzo
Sambuca

Southern Comfort
Tia Maria
Yukon Jack

Note: Kahlua is only certified kosher when an OU appears on the bottle.

Rum

Rum generally requires certification.

Bacardi – unflavored, light colored (white) varieties are acceptable without a kosher symbol on the label.

Cruzan (OU): light and dark

Don Q Rum (OU): 151, Anejo, Cristal, Gold, Grand Anejo, Limon

Rye

No certification required, any may be used.



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Sake

Sake (also called rice wine) is not wine at all, but is made by fermenting rice. Unflavored Sake is acceptable without specific certification. Flavored should only be used with a reliable certification.

Kosher certified sake (OU) is available for those who prefer a certified product:

Hana Fuji Apple Flavored
Hana Lychee Flavored
Hana Raspberry Flavored
Miyako

Sho Chiku Bai
Takara
Takara Masamune Sake
Takara Sierra



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Scotch

There are two types of Scotch: Blended and Single Malt. Scotch aged in wine casks (sherry, port, Madera, etc.) is problematic and should be avoided. If it can be determined that a particular variety has not been aged in wine casks, it would be acceptable to use – in some cases, distilleries known for their wine casks will release specialty bottlings that are not aged in wine casks. Those on this list have been verified to be acceptable for kosher use.

Blended Scotch:

Chivas Regal	Johnny Walker (all labels)
Chivas Royal Salute	Rob Roy
Cutty Sark	The Dimple Pinch
Dewar	White Horse Fine Old
J&B	William Grants

Single Malts

The Speyside and Drumguish single malts are kosher certified (Global Kosher).

All of the labels listed below produce at least one variety of single malt that is aged only in oak and preset no kashrus concerns. *Most* of these distilleries *also* produce wine cask products; check each variety's label for mention of wine casks.

Ballantine's	Glengoyne	Oban
Balvenie	Glenkeith	Royal Coachman
Bowmore	Glenlivet	Royal Lochnagar
Cragganmore	Glenmorang	Scapa
Dailuaine	Highland Park	Speyburn
Dalmore	Inchmurrin	Talisker
Dalwhinnie	Isle of Jura	Tamdhu
Glen Garioch	Knockando	The Edradour
Glen Kinchie	Lagavulin	Tomintoul
Glen Moray	Laphroaig	Tullibardi
Glen Ord	Loch Dhu	
Glenfiddich	Longmorn	



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Tequila

Tequila is made from agave cactus in Mexico. It is common for other types of alcohol, colors, and flavorings to be added – all of which can be problematic.

There are generally three types of tequila:

- 1) Regular-White (also known as Silver) tequila is recommended. This clear tequila contains either 100% agave alcohol or a mixture of agave and sugar cane alcohol.
- 2) Gold or Brown tequila is not recommended. This darker tequila is aged for 3 months and may have color and flavoring added.
- 3) Reposado (“rested”) (also known as Special) tequila is not recommended. It is aged for 6 months and in addition to concerns of color and flavoring, glycerin may be added for density.

For those who wish to use certified tequila, the following are all OU kosher:

Don Bernardo G
Salusa
Casavores Sol Dios Anejo
Herrudura Sol Dios Platinum / Blanco

Vermouth

Vermouth requires certification since it is made from wine. Kedem is the only brand readily available with a kosher symbol.



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Vodka

All Domestic (USA) non-flavored vodka is acceptable. This applies only to grain or potato vodka.

Imported vodka requires certification. Some vodkas made from grape alcohol have recently entered the marketplace, and it is common outside of the US to add various problematic ingredients to vodka, including dairy and animal byproducts.

Some imported vodkas with kosher certification:

Provda (now has OU)

Iceberg (now has OU)

The following unflavored imported vodkas are acceptable imports even without certification on the label:

Absolut

Belvedere

Binyamina (OU Pesach)

Canadian Iceberg

Chopin

Finlandia

Grey Goose

Kettle One

Stolichnaya

Three Olives

Vox

Yevreyskaya

Flavored Vodkas

Absolut Flavored Vodka – Apeach, Citron, Kurant, Mandarin, Pears, Pepper, Raspberri, Ruby Red, Vanilla

Putinka Vodka - both Pepper flavor and Limited Edition are kosher even without certification on the label.

Gordon Vodkas - Citrus Flavored, Wild Berry, Orange (cRc)

Stolichnaya Vodkas (with OU on label only) – Cinnamon, Coffee, Imported Russian Raspberry, Imported Russian Strawberry, Lemon Flavored, Orange, Peach, Vanilla Flavored



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Whiskey

(including Canadian, Irish, Ryes)

Blended Whiskeys are acceptable only with certification, unless appearing on the list below. Some blended whiskeys have wine and other problematic flavorings added.

Bushmills Irish – (all except Green label)
Canadian Club (regular only - not Classic, Premium or Special Reserve)
Canadian Mist
Crown Royal (all)
Gibsons (MK on label)
Jameson Irish (all varieties)
Seagram's (VO and 7 Canadian Blend only, not American Blend)
Wiser's

Wines

All wines require acceptable certification. There are many kosher wines on the market from all parts of the world. Today it is possible to enjoy kosher wines from Australia, Chile, Spain, South Africa in addition to the traditional kosher venues like the US, Israel and France.

Check each bottle for an acceptable certification. Note that some wines are not mevushal and therefore have additional handling requirements (consult your Rabbi or the Vaad office for particulars) Many Israeli and French wines are not mevushal. Also note that there are wines that purport to be kosher but bear marks of unknown or in some cases, nonexistent certifications.