

Add tropical drinks to holiday affairs



Mele Kalikimaka!

That's how Hawaiians say Merry Christmas.

Normally in this space you'd see a list of holiday cocktails featuring words like "mulled" and "nog," but we all know it is cold outside; we don't need to be reminded by our cocktails. So here are some tropical and Hawaiian-inspired drinks to warm up your holiday party.

Mele Kalikimaka Martini

Put on the Bing Crosby version of the holiday song "Mele Kalikimaka" and sip this new version of an old classic.

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- 1 ½ ounces SKYY Infusions Pineapple
- 3 ounces egg nog
- Splash of coconut cream or coconut milk
- Nutmeg
- Cinnamon

Combine all ingredients into a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into a martini glass and top with a sprinkle of nutmeg and cinnamon.

Champagne Sunrise

You'll find this drink at Toast restaurant in Birmingham.

- 1/2 ounce Cazadores Reposado Tequila
- ¼ ounce Patron Citronage
- Orange juice
- Champagne
- Grenadine

Pour tequilas over ice in a goblet or martini glass. Fill remaining glass with half orange juice and half champagne. Top with a splash of grenadine.

Pineapple Wave

OK, this recipe is somewhat of a fantasy (unless you really do keep agave nectar in your fridge), but doesn't it sound tasty?

- 1 ½ ounce Don Julio Blanco Tequila (recommended)
- 3 chunks of pineapple
- 1/8 of a pink grapefruit
- 2 mint sprigs
- 1 teaspoon agave nectar
- 1 egg white

Muddle the fruits, mint and agave nectar in a cocktail shaker, then add the tequila and egg white and shake well. Add ice and shake again. Coat the rim of a rocks glass filled with ice with a grapefruit twist, and then strain contents of shaker over the fresh ice. Garnish with a pineapple leaf or slice of grapefruit.

One Good Pinch Punch

This recipe comes from Phil Ward of the upscale Mayahuel lounge in New York City.

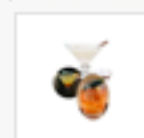
- 1 seedless watermelon
- "1 good pinch" of cayenne pepper
- 4 sugar cubes
- 2 ounces Flor de Cana 4 year Extra Dry Rum (recommended)
- 1 ounce lime juice
- 1 ounce club soda

Dissolve sugar cubes in the club soda. To that mixture, add and muddle several 1-inch slices of watermelon. Add remaining ingredients one at a time and stir as added. Stir all ingredients with ice and then strain into a glass or punch bowl. This recipe makes one drink.



Island-themed drinks will help warm up a party. (the Rose Group, Toast, Hunter Pu)

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