

Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

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THE BRITISH MAKE IT COOL GETTING THE JAB

In American lingo we get shots but the British call it a jab. American journalists seem to like the term and recently I've been seeing more references to jabs in the press than those thrown in a heavy weight bout. It seems like the jab is here to stay and it does sound better than saying, "my vaccination shot."

The British have a way of making everyday things seem cool. The Beattles were instantly cool, nevermind that they probably gained most of their styling from their Dutch and German girlfriends when they lived in Hamburg, long before anyone knew who they were. James Bond is cool but he's also a womanizer, murderer and a drunk. Jaguar and Land Rover automobiles are cool, nevermind that they are expensive, over engineered and unreliable. The British have a studied carelessness that us colonials lap up.

The British were also the first to authorize the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine on December 2nd, 2020, followed by the AstraZeneca vaccine on December 30th.

They set to their task as a nation under siege, giving jabs to everyone as quickly as possible and currently they have given 47% of their nation

at least one jab. [By comparison](#) the United States is at 32% and most of continental Europe, countries like Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands, are at 12%-14%.

All this jabbing is starting to have positive results. About a month ago the UK government introduced what they referred to as a "one-way road map out of the pandemic." This road map covers only England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own road maps. But last week I received an email from the Great Britain Travel Authority that stated, with a heavy caveat of "if conditions continue to improve" England will open to international travel on June 21st.

You can imagine my surprise! I've been scouring the news looking for the first signs of a return to travel and this is it. Oh my gosh! What does this mean for other destinations? When will the USA allow visitors? When will France? Where can we go right now and how has travel changed? I answer some of these question on the second page.

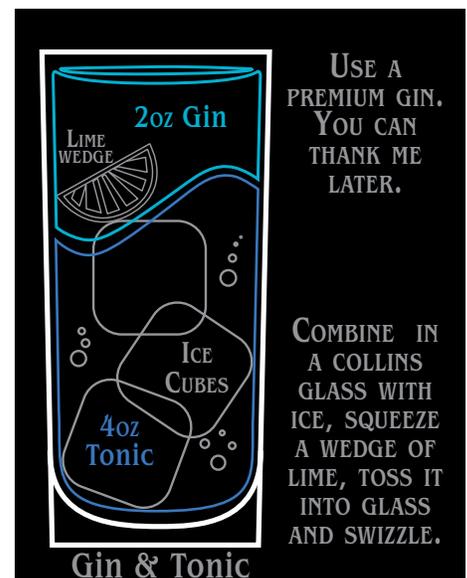
The British are leading the way in this new culture of Covid and I instantly thought ~ cool.

GIN & TONIC

Nothing is as cool and refreshing as this iconic Brit drink, the Gin & Tonic. During the days of the British Raj, while the Brits ruled India, they'd show up in their woolen suits. Hot, sweaty, itchy, they definitely made the wearer pant heavily. And everyone knows a spell of heavy panting attracts mosquitoes and mosquitoes carry malaria.

An 18th century prophylactic and treatment for malaria was to drink a tonic of water and quinine. This recipe for health was used by British officers in India as early as 1825. However, quinine infused water is bitter. To improve the taste, sugar and gin were added to the drink. The result was health and happiness!

The first commercially produced carbonated tonic water was introduced in 1852 and the quintessential summer health drink was born. Thanks UK.



CORONAVIRUS VS. VACCINATION VACATIONS

As vaccines are distributed to more people the pressure to “get back to normal” is being felt by everyone. Of course the vaccines will not end the disease. They may end the pandemic, but Covid19 is going to be with us for a very long time to come.

With summer looming in the northern hemisphere there is a lot of hand wringing by popular destinations and businesses that rely on tourism. Will they or won't they be allowed to invite people into their countries or establishments?

If you've been vaccinated here is a list of places you can go now and in the near future.

Now:

[Domestic travel](#): in the USA. On April 2nd the CDC released guidance that vaccinated people could safely travel domestically within the country.

[Belize](#): present vaccine card.

[Costa Rica](#): travel insurance required.

[Croatia](#): present vaccine card.

[Ecuador](#): present vaccine card.

[Estonia](#): present vaccine card.

[Georgia](#): present vaccine card.

[Guatemala](#): present vaccine card.

[Iceland](#): present vaccine card.

[Lebanon](#): must still test negative.

[Mexico](#): no requirements.

[Montenegro](#): present vaccine card.

[Panama](#): present vaccine card.

[Romania](#): present vaccine card.

[Seychelles](#): present vaccine card.

[Slovenia](#): present vaccine card.

Soon:

[Cyprus](#): currently only travelers from Israel with proof of vaccination, but they say soon more countries will be added.

[Greece](#): May 15th or so.

[Hawaii](#): May 1st.

[United Kingdom](#): no earlier than June 21st.

Remember that even if you have been vaccinated you must travel to one of these countries by air. Land borders are currently closed in the United States, and you must present a negative Covid19 test at least 72 hours prior to your return home.

Regarding airlines:

[Delta](#): starting in May, Delta will be filling the middle seat but they have extended their Change and Cancel policy to be fee free to include all tickets purchased by April 30th 2021. **All tickets except Basic Economy. Don't buy Basic Economy; it isn't worth the discount.* Also, Delta has extended the “use-by” credit period to December 31st 2022.

[United](#): has also eliminated change and cancel fees.

[American](#): has eliminated change fees for all but Basic Economy and credits need to be used by March 31st 2022.

Covid19 has also changed the travel insurance industry. Previously, travel insurance didn't cover things like terrorism, war, random acts

of nature, or pandemics. But that has now changed. Allianz Travel Insurance will now cover Covid19 related claims. This means if you get Covid19 and need medical care while traveling, part or all of your medical bills will be covered. If you have to cancel your trip due to Covid19, you can now submit a claim. As always with insurance the fine print matters. Click [this](#) and [this](#) to read the fine print. If you are traveling or plan on traveling and want travel insurance send me an email, david@savvynomad.com, and I can get you a quote with Allianz that will be less than what you can get online. It's all part of the insider travel agent stuff that we do.

Finally, the [European Commissioner for Vaccine Production](#), Thierry Breton, said on Monday, April 5th, that he expects Europe to reach herd immunity by mid July. He told [Le Parisien](#), “We now have good visibility of what is happening, from the production of vaccines to the distribution and tests,” he said. “Fourteen million doses were delivered to the EU in January, 28 million in February and 60 million in March. For the next quarter, we will increase to 100 million in April, May and June. Then 120 million in the summer, and we will reach a rate of 200 million from September,” he said.

Fingers crossed. I'm ready to travel. Sara and I have got our jabs. How about you?

I think it's time to plan some wine classes.