

Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

Vol. 2 February 2019

Rules for Real ID

Do you plan on flying anytime in the future? If you do, you'll need one of those fancy new Minnesota Enhanced Driver's Licenses. According to the DMV you'll also need to provide 4 different forms of identification to get one. Here's what you need.

1. Your birth certificate or your passport. If your name is different you must provide proof that you changed it and you must have the name change form.
2. Your social security card, or a W2, or a 1099, or a pay stub with your social security number on it.
3. Two forms of proof that you live in Minnesota. Acceptable options are: valid, unexpired Minnesota driver's license and a home utility services bill dated no more than 90 days before the application. But this document will not be accepted if two unrelated people are listed on the bill. There is a whole bunch of other stuff that could suffice too.

On October 1st 2020 you **must** have an Enhanced Driver License to pass a TSA check point at any US airport. If you don't have one you can use your passport. This means that even if you are flying to MSP or Chicago, which

are places you can drive to without going through a check point, you'll have to have your identity verified by using an Enhanced Driver License or a passport. If you don't have either, you'll be denied access to the airport. [Here is a link to the requirements to getting a Minnesota issued Enhanced Drivers License.](#)

Oddly, it is easier to get a passport. To get a passport you need a birth certificate and a valid driver's license. Passports are good for 10 years, cost \$110, allow you to travel the world and after 9/30/2020, to fly to Minneapolis or Chicago. A basic, class D, Minnesota Enhanced Driver's License costs \$40.25 and is good for 4 years.

Lastly, it isn't required to get an Enhanced Driver's License to drive. Your old one is still good for that, and you can still renew your old one without any additional verification.

I'm just going to travel with my passport. That way I know I can go anywhere, anytime, be it Minneapolis or Madrid.



Valentine Pairing Advice

I mean for wine! Not that other kind of pairing that happens on Valentine's day. For wine, there are two broad concepts to remember.

1. Chocolate goes with big, bold, fruity, slightly sweet, red wines. In wine the perception of sweetness doesn't always come from sugar, it also comes from alcohol. Big, full bodied wines with a higher alcohol content (14-15.5%) taste sweet not because of residual sugar but because of the alcohol. So you can pair chocolate with a California Napa Cab, Zinfandel, or a Ruby or Tawny Port.

2. Traditionally made sparkling wine goes with anything salty. How do you know it's traditionally made? Look for "méthode traditionnelle" on the bottle. Some examples are: Champagne, Cava, or Proseco. These go great with oysters or anything salty like potato chips or tater tots.

My suggestions for Valentine wine pairings are:

1. Chocolate truffles with a bottle of Ruby Port.
2. Champagne with oysters on the ½ shell. **Mount Royal sells oysters sourced from sustainable beds on the Virginia coast at Chincoteague island.**



Tour of Scotland

~ February 9th ~

[Only 2 spots open!](#)

We will be sampling:

Highland Park, Dalwhinnie,
Glenkinchie, Bowmore,
Springbank, Glenfardas

Practical Information:

Class starts @ 7:30pm ~ *sharp*
@ 2620 E. Superior Street.

Cost is \$15/pp.

Class size is limited to 20.

R.S.V.P. required.



France Info Meetings

Join us to talk about France
at our home on

February 5th from 4:30-6:00pm &
February 6th from 5:30-7:00pm.

Relax with a glass of wine as
we present our destinations for
[Fall 2019 and talk about 2020 opportunities.](#)

The 2019 Fall Canal boating
schedule is coming together. We've
already filled a boat. Here are the
dates for September 2019:

Week 1: 9/14-9/21 Pending

Week 2: 9/21-9/28 6 available

Week 3: 9/28-10/5 Full

Returning to the Midi.

It's been 5 years since our last trip
to the Languedoc but this sun
kissed region of France is never very
far from our minds.

French Lessons

We've also started an informal
weekly get together to study
conversational French. It's a French
club, it's free, and if you'd like try a
practice class stop by our house at
3pm on Tuesday February 5th.
Beginner French.

producer in Ireland, produced
1.5 million gallons. Glenlivet,
Scotland's largest producer, was
making just 200,000 gallons.

Scottish and English distilleries
were keen on earning some of
Ireland's liquid gold and in 1860
parliament passed the Spirits Act
which allowed for blending of
spirits.

Scottish producers started making
easier and cheaper grain spirit and
blending it with more expensive
and difficult to produce single
malt spirit. This was marketed as
Blended Scotch Whisky. Blending
allowed them to make a product
very similar in style to Irish whisky
but at a fraction of the cost.

The Irish were not happy. They
complained to parliament that
blends, "cannot be whisky and
should not be sold under that
name." In 1908 a royal commission
sided with the Scots and the
blending law remained in place.

To differentiate themselves from
the Scottish upstarts and their
blended product, Irish distillers
started spelling whiskey with an
"e."

After the repeal of prohibition in
the United States, Irish whiskey
was still considered the premium
product so American distillers
adopted the Irish spelling.

Interestingly, Single Malt Scotch is
now considered a premium product
and Irish whiskey is often blended.
In the 1890's Ireland had 30
distilleries; by 1990 it had just 3.

Today, Ireland is rebounding and
has 6 active distilleries and 12 that
are making and maturing whiskey.
Scotland, by comparison, has 126
active distilleries.

March 9th ~ 
Bourbon, Rye, Tennessee,
Canadian, Irish and Poiten.
Whiskey anyone?

With or Without the E?

Different countries use different
spellings of the word whiskey or
whisky. Traditionally, Scotland,
Japan, and Canada spell whisky
without the "e" while Ireland and
the United States spell whiskey
with the "e."

The differentiation started around
the turn of the 20th century. At that
time (1860-1940), Irish whisky was
spelled without the "e" and was
the most popular, most produced,
and considered the most premium
whisky the world over. In 1860
Irish whisky accounted for 70% of
worldwide production. In Dublin
in the 1880's, 40% of the work
force was employed in distilling
or brewing or supplying those
industries.

For comparison, in 1900, Jameson's
Irish Whisky, the second largest