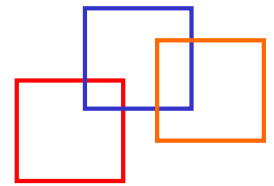
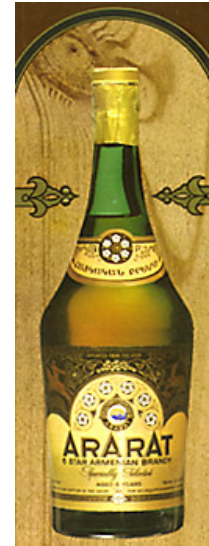


Հայկական Գինների և Ոգելից Ըմպելիների Փառատոն ARMENIAN WINE & SPIRITS FESTIVAL



Armenia is renowned for its fine brandies (also known in the former Soviet Union as Armenian Cognac) that have won more than 80 gold and silver medals in International competition. Perfected over the years, Ararat brandy is the pride of Armenia because of its superior quality and the positive reception it receives wherever it is served. Like many other famous alcohol drinks, aromatic brandies were first blended by the monks of Armenia's monasteries. From the remote distilleries astride the ancient Silk Route, the wines were exported and consumed throughout the USSR, and until recently, only 10% of the brandy produced at the Ararat Distillery in Yerevan was exported out of the former Soviet Union. The remainder, being of such high quality, was only available to a select minority and utilized a state banquets and functions. Winston Churchill had been known to enjoy Armenian Brandy with his cigars.



The grapes are of local aboriginal type, and late-September / early-October of each year is a festive time in the vineyards, as the grapes are harvested in preparation for the process that will eventually lead to the bottled nectar's availability on shelves throughout the world.



Once gathered, the grapes are taken to process that are designed to extract the juice without the risk of crushing pips and stalks. Kept in vats, the juice is clarified without recourse to the use of chemicals and then allowed to ferment gently until the distillation process.



Armenians use only the finest quality Limousine oak casks. The oak, whose tannin and porous nature enable the spirit to develop its beautiful golden color and aroma, are specially selected and stored, covered, out in the open for at least three years to allow the wood to season. The casks with the precious liquid are then stored in massive cellars for up to 40 years, at carefully monitored levels of temperature and humidity, to ensure perfection.



ARTSAKH
Aged 9 years



AKHTAMAR
Aged 10 years



DONAKAN
Aged 15 years



VASPOURAKAN
Aged 18 years