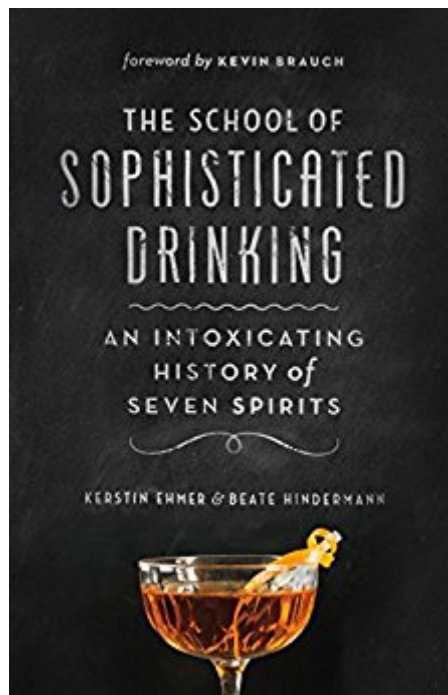




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The School Of Sophisticated Drinking: An Intoxicating History Of Seven Spirits



Synopsis

Wherever and whenever people have been found talking, they have been found drinking: an age-old pastime with an equally storied history. Alcohol and civilization have developed in close quarters, sometimes supporting each other and sometimes getting in each other's way. The School of Sophisticated Drinking, which began as an ongoing series of lectures at Berlin's legendary Victoria Bar in 2003, traces the deep-seated lineage of drinking in the social, political, and even scientific developments of our culture. Appealing to both expert drinkers and novice barflies, each chapter delves into the sociopolitical significance of and technological innovations behind a familiar wine or spirit—brandy, vodka, whisky, rum, gin, tequila, and champagne—and shares plenty of tales of adventure, from the glamour of Hollywood and Broadway, to the tormented worlds of well-known writers, to the outbreak of wars and the unending struggle for economic and military power. The reader's thirst for knowledge can be further quenched by trying any or all of the enticing cocktail recipes gathered at the end of the book.

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Customer Reviews

The School of Sophisticated Drinking: An Intoxicating History of Seven Spirits A wonderful book about the culture of drink which draws on history, literature and film to illuminate the role that the spirit world has played in western culture. Most books about classic cocktails focus on recipes. This essential volume focuses on the stories of these drinks. It's based on the ongoing lecture series The School of Sophisticated Drinking which takes place each winter at my favourite Berlin cocktail establishment: the Victoria Bar. Essential reading for anyone interested in classic cocktails. Highly recommended.

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