

KASHRUT: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Pure Alcohol

Pure alcohol is kosher if not derived from any grapes or any other non-kosher source.

Fermented Fruit Juices

Kosher supervision is recommended for fermented non-grape fruit juices (apple cider or fermented pomegranate, cherry, etc.) even if they do not have any additives and contain only pure juice.

Beer

All beer in the USA is kosher and does not need supervision. Many beers in other countries are also kosher even without supervision, but the status should be checked with local kashrut authorities.

SITUATION Some beers have lactose added.

STATUS If the lactose is less than 1/60th of the total volume, the beer is not considered to be dairy.

Wine

The principal difference between kosher wine (or grape juice) and non-kosher wine (or grape juice) is that the kosher wine must be produced and handled only by religious Jews. However, once the wine or grape juice has been cooked (“mevushal”), it may be handled by anyone, including people who are not Jewish, and it will still remain kosher. Pasteurization may be sufficient to be considered “cooking” for this purpose.

NOTE Many good-quality wines are NOT mevushal and when those bottles are opened must not be handled by anyone who is not a shomer Shabbat Jew.

Whiskies

Almost all whiskies are kosher, but check the source to be certain.

Liquers

Many liquers are kosher even without supervision, but many are not kosher and a reliable source should be checked before drinking any liquers.

NOTE Some liquers are kosher when produced or bottled in one country but are not kosher when produced in other countries.

Drinks from the Five Grains Owned by a Jew during Passover

All beverages that contain alcohol made from any of the five grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye, and spelt), and which were owned by a Jew during the Passover holiday, are not kosher.