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*.

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