

SOFT DRINKS NEWS



SOFT DRINKS WITH SPIRIT

Looking to (literally) add some juice to your bar's soft drinks offering, Free Spirit has created a range of (ahem) 'adult' soft drinks, designed to make 'not-drinking drinking' not quite so dull. Recently launched to the on-trade, Free Spirit is an all-natural carbonated fruit drink that comes in five flavours, including Spiced Tomato and Lemon & Yuzu. They have high fruit content and no added sugar or artificial sweeteners. On their own, they deliver a non-synthetic finish, avoiding the teeth-coating that comes with many soft drinks – making a juice marathon totally doable.

Although they're designed to be drunk alone or in a mocktail, we felt the Spiced Tomato was topped off superbly with some vodka, to make a light, session-style take on a Bloody Mary, while a little warming whisky added to the Blood Orange variant was instant Christmas in a glass.

POA, Free Spirit, 01189 298 444

Popcorn your Piña Colada

To satisfy the current trend for dessert and snack flavours in liquid form, Monin UK has added another flavour to its 140-strong portfolio, with the launch of its latest syrup, Popcorn. The first such product of its kind, according to Monin, it is designed to replicate the buttery, nutty flavour of the cinema classic in cocktails, milkshakes, coffees and other drinks.

As well as using it in coffee or adding it to a hard shake, recommended serves include a Popcorn Espresso Martini, Popcorn Mai Tai and Popcorn Colada. We're not sold on the Mai Tai, but the buttery notes really pimped out our Piña Colada.

The syrup is available in 70cl glass bottles and 1l plastic bottles, and it's both dairy and gluten-free.

£5.33/70cl, Bennett Opie, 01795 476154



Decadently different coffee capsules

You've got your foot-long wine, cocktail, tea and even water list sorted, but what about your coffee? For that staple after-meal ritual, Difference Coffee Co has come up with a roaster of an idea: a collection of terroir-led, limited-reserve coffees. The collection uses high-grade, batch-roasted 100% Arabica beans sourced from the most prestigious estates in the world.

Coffee is presented in single-serve, Nespresso machine-compatible capsules, including a Civet-made Kopi Luwak and a rich Jamaican Blue Mountain.

From £2.50/capsule, Difference Coffee Co, 020 7873 2062



BENJAMIN & BLUM CREATES TEAS TO PAIR

Tea is one of the, er, hottest things around right now, and Benjamin & Blum has created a range of premium bottled teas to pair with luxurious spirits. The two current variants are Darjeeling with White Peony and Connoisseur's Oolong.

The oolong has chocolatey, malty notes, pairing perfectly with dark rum and whisky, while we couldn't get enough of the fruitier, fresh flavour of the Darjeeling with cognac. Its a perfect cocktail ingredient or a refreshingly sober serve.

POA, benjaminandblum.com



Britvic refreshes

Britvic has relaunched its well-loved mixers and juices range, as well as its Indian Tonic Water, with bespoke bottles inspired by the brand's British heritage. Available in 125ml and 200ml glass bottles, plus 150ml cans, the range includes favourites such as orange juice, ginger ale, soda water and bitter lemon.

For every bottle sold by participating customers, Britvic will give back to nominated local initiatives and projects. An even better excuse to sell more G&Ts...

POA, Britvic Soft Drinks, 0845 758 1781

CONCENTRATE WITH A QUICK COFFEE

Made using the cold-brew method of steeping freshly ground coffee in filtered water at room temperature, HER coffee concentrate is a high-quality alternative to grinding your own beans. The estate blend coffee from Climpson & Sons has notes of chocolatey sweetness with medium acidity, making it a versatile addition to your menu.

It's simple to use; just pour the recommended measure of HER into a mug, add hot or cold water and stir, with no faffing at your espresso machine. The concentrate also makes a great pre-batch for coffee cocktails.

From £12/8 coffees, HER, hello@her-haggerston.com

