

TASTE PURE IRISH HOSPITALITY

The Tradition of the Irish Coffee

Long a staple in South African restaurants, the Irish Coffee can be as an after-dinner treat or a dessert. But where did this iconic treat have its origins?



The Irish Coffee is a traditional after-dinner drink or dessert alternative that continues to impress young and old thanks to its unique flavour combination. Coffee naturally complements the smoothness of whiskey, and the warmth of the coffee creates a harmonious and satisfying mouthfeel.

Samuel Gelston's Irish Whiskey is described as a smooth, triple-distilled single malt that smells of blackcurrant and apple, with a hint of toffee underneath. On the palate, one can taste melted chocolate, apricots and dried peels and finishes with subtle hints of cinnamon sticks. If that doesn't say, "It's a match made in coffee heaven", you haven't tried an authentic Irish Coffee yet.

Originating in Ireland, it was created in the 1940s by a man named Joe

Sheridan, a chef at Foynes Airport in County Limerick, Ireland. Foynes Airport was a busy hub for transatlantic flights at the time, and travellers often faced cold and turbulent flights.


According to the story, to warm up and comfort passengers, Joe Sheridan suggested adding Irish whiskey to hot coffee and a touch of brown sugar to sweeten, then topping it off with a layer of whipped cream. The combination of hot coffee, whiskey, and cream created a delicious and soothing drink that became known as Irish Coffee.

The most traditional recipe to try is combining a cup of hot brewed coffee with Irish Whiskey, a spoonful of brown sugar, and a layer of lightly whipped cream. The cream is carefully poured over the back of a spoon to create a distinct layer that floats on top of the coffee. Interestingly, in 2017, the village

of Foynes, Ireland, where the Irish Coffee was first created, set a Guinness World Record for the largest Irish Coffee. The drink was made using 100 litres of Irish whiskey, 200 litres of coffee, and 300 litres of cream.

Irish Coffee is an iconic representation of Irish culture and hospitality and is often associated with cosy pubs and the warmth of Irish hospitality.

Samuel Gelston's Blended Irish Whiskey is available at most leading liquor retailers and online at Takealot and www.liquordrop.co.za, and is distributed by Halewood South Africa.

For more information, visit halewood.co.za/samuel-gelstons-irish-whiskey. 

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