



want to scrape the back of your tongue kind of bitterness," Robinson said.

When storing absinthe, keep it out of sunlight and don't put the bottle in a freezer or otherwise leave it in the cold as the flavoring oils will solidify and cloud the bottle, and it may or may not return to its former self upon warming.

Forget fire

As a final tip, Robinson urges newcomers to avoid the ersatz tradition of setting absinthe on fire to melt the sugar cube before pouring water. The method is promoted as a "Bohemian" preparation by marketers of some European brands, but also gained a foothold from Hollywood, in particular "From Hell" in which Johnny Depp's Victorian London character torches his absinthe.

Experienced absintheurs see it as a cheesy and savage practice, and one that makes as much sense as microwaving caviar or stubbing out a cigar in a fine 18-year-old single malt scotch.

Dos Another consideration is that burning glasses can shatter under heat, or get tipped over by drinking buddies, and the insurance adjusters visiting the charred skeleton of your house might not be amused to learn that you were playing with a Molotov cocktail in your living room while intoxicated.

"Friends don't let friends flame absinthe," Robinson said.

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