



Eat Out

The city's best restaurants and bars

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Bottle of the sexes

A self-described “girly-drink girl” and a guy whose usual is “bourbon rocks” take a taste test of the newest flavored liquors on the market.

By Heather Shouse Photographs by Martha Williams

Hangar One River Raspberry

He said: “Rude. Singes my tongue. Damn, this is tart. I’m done drinking it and I’m still salivating. It would be good with tonic.”

She said: “Has a fresh flavor, not at all fakey. The color is pretty. I’d mix this with lemonade and sugar the rim of the glass.”

You decide: Available by the glass at Twisted Spoke (3369 N Clark St, 773-525-5300), by the bottle at West Lakeview Liquors (2156 W Addison St, 773-525-1916).

267 Rum Infusion Pineapple

He said: "I'm skeeved out by the giant pieces of decaying fruit in the bottle, but what's not to like? It's like a cocktail in itself. Man, this stuff goes down fast. Gulpable."

She said: "Smells totally like fresh pineapple, but the flavor is a bit syrupy, like the syrup in those Dole pineapple packs. Good though, especially if you were to mix it with cranberry juice."

You decide: Available by the glass at Chicago Chop House (60 W Ontario St, 312-787-7100), by the bottle at Kenwood Liquors (8810 S Stony Island Ave, 773-374-0512).



Phillips Union cherry and vanilla whiskeys

He said: "The cherry doesn't have that natural taste; it's like cough-syrup cherry. I assume this is intended for Manhattans. I won't take Manhattan. The vanilla is pretty smooth, with a cream-soda aftertaste."

She said: "The cherry's like Luden's, like old-man cough-drop breath. The vanilla smells like Jack Daniel at Pier One but tastes sugary."

You decide: Available by the glass at Red Ivy (3525 N Clark St, 773-472-0900), by the bottle at Binny's Ivanhoe Castle (3000 N Clark St, 773-935-9400).

Van Gogh Double Espresso Double Caffeine

He said: "Sweet but great. Like coffee with a kick. I'd drink it on the rocks. It'd definitely keep you up all night."

She said: "Oooh, I like this. Sweet and coffeelike. Tastes like tiramisu. Ninth-grade cheerleaders would go ape-shit for this."

You decide: Available by the bottle at Sam's Wine & Spirits (1720 N Marcey St, 312-664-4394).

Absolut Ruby Red

He said: “Smells like real grapefruit juice, tastes refreshing, clean and not at all sweet. Would be great with soda.”

She said: “No boozy smell but sharp boozy taste. My mouth is on fire. But this could work in a breakfast drink.”

You decide: Available by the glass at Maxbar (2247 N Lincoln Ave, 773-549-5884), by the bottle at Cardinal Liquors (3501 N Central Ave, 773-725-0900).

North Shore Distillery date and black tea–infused gins

He said: “Both of them are really smooth. I don’t exactly taste the dates, but it mellows out the edge of the gin. This is what flavored alcohol should taste like.”

She said: “The date smells fantastic, like a manly cologne. It’s slightly spicy. I’d even drink this without a mixer, which I never do. The black tea is peppery, very British. Trent Lott would love it.”

You decide: Available by the glass at Saltaus (1350 W Randolph St, 312-455-1919), by the bottle at Wine Discount Center (1826 N Elston Ave, 773-489-3454).