

Love & Libations: The Love Of The Negroni



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

When you ask someone which cocktail they love, the Negroni may be the first thing that comes to mind. It's such a phenomenon

that you can find one on pretty much any menu, or simply request it at a bar. As I mentioned in an earlier column, Anthony Bourdain loved this drink so much that he called it “the perfect cocktail”. There’s even a Bubbly Negroni that was invited for Valentine’s Day; the sex appeal can’t be denied. This drink is perfect for [date night!](#)

The Sexiest Drink for Date Night: Negroni

This year, the cocktail turns 100 years old. We have two guys to thank for the libation with a love story at the heart of it all.

The Negroni is named after Count Camillo Negroni, who was known for being quite a character. The Count went into his favorite cafe and wanted an Americano (created by Gaspare Campari) with a bit more alcohol. That’s when a bartender replaced the soda for gin, and just like that a famous cocktail was born. There are three main ingredients to make a Negroni: Campari, gin, and vermouth. While you can use any gin or vermouth, there is only one Campari.

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Most people know the liqueur because it’s in almost every bar and restaurant around the world. Did you know that behind it all is a love story? As you know back in the day, people named everything after themselves, which is why you probably won’t be surprised to find out that in 1860 a man named Gaspare Campari started a small family business to make aperitifs. When he died, his two sons took over the business. It was David Campari who started using celebrities in the Campari posters. Basically, Campari was rocking with celebs before it was cool.

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In the midst of it all, Davide Campari fell in love with a famous Italian opera singer, Lina Cavalleri. She was also known as the “greatest beauty in the world”. She was definitely a lovely lady; in regard to singing, let’s just say her looks probably got her hired. Davide fell madly in love with Lina and followed her on a world tour. Today, we might call that stalking, whereas during their time it was thought of as “charming”. As they traveled to Milan, Moscow, and New York, Davide started selling his families products to bars and restaurants. The small family business grew into a worldwide sensation. While the business became a success, it’s sad to say that Lina wasn’t really feeling Davide. She married someone else, while he would pine for her until the day he died.

The love story started off between a man and woman, but grew into the world’s love for a bitter liqueur. I guess that’s what makes the story so bittersweet.

May your love story turn out much better. Enjoy a Negroni or two with your boo during Negroni Week. If you are rocking the single life, get together with your squad and celebrate the single life.

Classic Negroni

1 oz. gin

1 oz. Campari

1 oz. sweet vermouth

Orange twist

Stir ingredients in a mixing glass with ice, then strain into a chilled cocktail glass, and garnish with an orange twist.

Love & Libations: Celebrity Reds To Turn You On





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

While most of the attention in February goes to Valentine's Day and Galentine's Day, the whole month is known as the month of love. This is where red wine comes in.

It's been said that when you want to get romantic, red wine is where it's at. It boosts the libido. The wine contains flavonoids (antioxidants) that increase the blood flow to key areas that get things going in the boudoir. While the tannins and histamines in the wine give your body a bit of warmth which also gets you in the mood for a little fun.

Red Wines For Your Love Life

The following are some reds that will add a touch of spice to your love life.

Nocking Point Wines- Year VI Cabernet Sauvignon

Plenty of celebrities have wine, but Nocking Point is the first line of wines to be curated by celebrities. The winery was co-founded by Stephen Amell from the hit WB show, Arrow. The wines are produced in Washington. You may be surprised to find out that they are the 2nd largest producing wine state in the US. There are great wines coming out of the region.

This red is their flagship wine. It's aged in French oak barrels with aromas of red and black fruits, plus a bit of wood. The perfect wine for a romantic dinner that includes steak or a truffle pizza.

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Il Paglaio- Roxanne Rosso Toscana

I was sent a note that Sting and Trudie Styler wanted to send me this wine so how could I say no? It's produced on the land of their villa in Tuscany where the couple love to spend some quality time.

When people think of this duo, "sexy" tends to come to mind. How many couples do you know that practice seven-hour tantric sessions? Maybe it's something we should all get going in our lives.

Roxanne Red is named after the famous song written by String, but it's also inspired by Alexander the Great's wife, a muse of Cyrano De Bergerac. The song is about a man who falls in love with a lady of the night. He confesses his love and asks her to stay with him.

While the song leaves it up to our imagination whether she stays or goes, if you bring a bottle of Roxanne Red, you just may win your lover's heart. It's a red blend that has "amore" written all over it. Think deep ruby red with notes of red fruits, cherries, and spices. All the makings of a love libation. While you are at it, pair a little tantra with your wine.

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Las Jaras Wine- Old Vine Carignan

The wine was created for good times and to have the perfect wine to pair with food. This small production of wine is co-created by Eric Wareheim. You may have seen him on the Netflix show, Master of None.

If your partner is into wine from California, this is a good selection. The Carignan grape is originally from Spain so this wine will give you a Spanish vibe. The bold juicy red is a food friendly wine which is exactly what you are looking for when you want to have a romantic meal. Long story short, this is a unique bottle of wine. Your love will be pleasantly surprised if you choose this one.

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Bastianich Wines- Vespa Rosso

When a kitchen witch like Lidia Bastianich has a wine, attention must be paid. Bastianich has been wowing audiences with her Italian cooking for years. Between her cookbooks and restaurants, it's not surprising that she got into the wine game. Founded in 1997, the wines are produced in the Friuli Colli Orientali DOC region of Italy.

This red blend has aromas of mulberries, blackberries, and balsamic vinegar. This powerful wine also comes with a touch of elegance. It would be great with bleu cheese and honey. It's been said that cheese is an aphrodisiac. Imagine how fun a red wine, honey, and bleu cheese would be. Plus this wine will make you feel like you're sipping in the beautiful lands of Italy.

Some people forget about Italian wine during romantic holidays because France seems to have the "sexy image" on lock. Don't forget to add Italian wines in your list.

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Love & Libations: What To Sip

& Binge, That Is The Question



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Some people still miss sipping red wine while watching Olive Pope and her Scandal squad. The show made drinking red wine on Thursday nights a special occasion. While you can still catch

Scandal on a streaming site, there are other fabulous shows with characters getting their drink on. Here are some shows paired with some of the hottest celebrity libations to help you get a binge on when you and your partner want to kick it at home.

Sip and Drink for your next TV binge!

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Killing Eve- Ferguson Crest Viognier by Fergie

If you watched the Golden Globes, you know that Sandra Oh won for best actress for her portrayal as Eve Polastri. Oh plays a detective hot on the heels of a sociopath assassin. It's all so very cat and mouse. She's so dedicated to her job that it's hurting her marriage. Who hasn't had a partner that's taken them for granted? I think we can all raise our hands.

That means Eve needs white wine from time to time. The Ferguson Crest Viognier would be the kind of wine that helps up unwind with this series. Hopefully in season two Eve gets that assassin and keeps her man.

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The Bodyguard- Haig Club by David Beckham

Some of you will remember Richard Madden from Game of Thrones. In this show he plays, Sergeant David Budd, working as a specialist protection officer for the police department. He gets assigned to protect the Home Secretary, Julia Montague. When you get a good looking bodyguard protects a sexy cougar something is going in the romance department. Between his PTSD, failed marriage, sleeping with his boss, and bullets, David needs a drink every now and then.

Scotch is the way go to when sipping during this show. It seems fitting to drink, Haig Club, by David Beckham. It's like

having two good looking Davids at the same time.

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Ray Donovan- Bob Dylan's Heaven's Door Tennessee Bourbon

Liev Schreiber headlines this show which is headed to its 7th season. Ray Donovan is a Hollywood fixer who finds himself in quite a few dangerous situations. He's like the Oliva Pope of Hollywood (season six he hits NYC). Then there's his hot mess of an Irish Catholic family who is more trouble than his clients. However, Ray's scrappy wife, Abby, is the glue that holds the family together.

The Donovans are very much into whiskey. It just might be in every episode. Watching the show while sipping a Heaven's Door Tennessee Bourbon, will make feel just like a Donovan.

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Greenleaf- Night Ender by Aisha Tyler

The family is lead by Lady Mae Greenleaf and Bishop James Greenleaf who have been married forever while running a successful church with their children. Their estranged daughter, Grace, comes back home and all hell breaks loose. This show may be focused on a family in the church, but they are as scandalous as they come. Cheating, stealing, incest, and so much more. Did I mention that Oprah shows up in a few episodes? There's so much drama, I guess you could say all the characters needs Jesus.

The Greenleafs are a lot like the Donovans, they love libations. There seems to be a consistent theme of red wine so Night Ender by Aisha Tyler/Nocking Point Wines is a great choice for a sip and binge.

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Love & Libations: Holiday Cocktailing Like A Celebrity





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Tis' the season for cocktailing like the rich and famous. It's no secret that celebrities love a good party, but then again who doesn't? As you entertain or spend quality time at home this season channel your inner celeb with one of the following drinks.

While she may no longer be with us, Elizabeth Taylor is an icon. It's not a secret that Taylor loved herself a drink. Some of her heavy drinking came due to her rocky yet passionate relationship with Richard Burton. In the Golden Age

of Hollywood, drinking was a recreational sport to many. Taylor's favorite cocktail was the "Black Russian", she added the Hershey's syrup for her own special touch. This libation would be great with holidays cookies, watching classic Christmas movies and wearing matching pajamas with your partner.

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Taylor's Black Russian

1 oz vodka

1 oz Kahlua

1 oz Hershey's chocolate syrup

Heat the chocolate syrup until it gets warm (make sure not to burn it). Add the ingredients to a mixing glass or shaker and stir until well combined. Fill the glass with ice and stir until chilled. Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice.

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For years I'd heard about a cocktail called the "Pornstar Martini". It's a popular drink in places such as London, though most bartenders around the globe know how to make one. I had the pleasure of meeting the inventor of the cocktail, Douglas Ankrah, at an event in NYC. Since I know the drink is popular in the hottest bars in London, I asked him what famous people had been spotted sipping his cocktail. Let's just say that the Duchess of Cambridge (who we all know as Kate Middleton) used to enjoy this martini when out with her friends.

This drink is obviously a good choice for a party because it would get the guests talking. It's also the perfect libation to serve when you are snuggling in with your boo. It's a

little naughty yet nice. Suggestive cocktails have a way of making couples creative. Besides that, it's a good drink of Netflix and chill.

Pornstar Martini

2 oz. vanilla vodka

1 oz passion fruit puree

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz vanilla syrup

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz lime juice

Side shot of Champagne (or go with Crémant)

Combine vodka, passion fruit, vanilla syrup and lime juice in a shaker filled with ice. Shake it up then strain into a coup. Serve with a shot of Champagne or Crémant.

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In the past few years, Oprah has been showing us her fun side. Lady O mentioned that she makes a mean margarita, but her favorite drink is a Pomegranate Rosé Martini. When you are living a luxurious life like Oprah, the sparkling wine for this libation has to be champagne, of course. Can't you totally see Oprah and Gayle kicking back with a few of these over the holidays in one of her stunning homes. This cocktail is great for catching up with your girl squad.

Pomegranate Rosé Martini

2 oz vodka

3 oz. fresh pomegranate juice

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp fresh lemon juice

2 oz rosé Champagne

Fill the shaker with ice, vodka, pomegranate juice, and lemon juice. Strain into a martini glass and top off with the sparkling rosé. Garnish with dried star anise.

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