

Abstract

In the introduction the reader is introduced to the brief facts related to the history of absinthe, to what absinthe really is and what it means for many people today. The author mentions several myths with which he argues and notes that it is very likely they have contributed to current popularity of the absinthe.

In the History section the readers are given the opportunity to find out where absinthe comes from and how the geographical distribution of this beverage proceeded, as well as its subsequent fall, which ended with a Europe-wide ban. At the end of this passage the latest development regarding the absinthe is mentioned. The description of its redistribution due to termination of the ban in almost all countries it was first established in can be found here as well.

Next section is dedicated to the actual form of absinthe. The author states which essentials should be present in production of the absinthe and how new absinthes are born today from vintage bottles that remember the pre-ban era. The consumer has the opportunity to taste the exact replicas of the drinks produced in the 19th century.

The following passage is about the real and perceived effects of absinthe, as well as familiarization with the most discussed substance contained in absinthe, thujone.

Absinthe ritual is described in the subsequent chapter, including the mention of several variations, about which the author criticizes their inauthenticity in comparison to the original ritual from the 19th century. Some health risks are also talked through in relation to these ritual variations.

The instruments used to drink absinthe are also talked over individually. The way in which they are used is described, as well as their design and occasional historical curiosities.

The final part of this work is devoted to the appearance of absinthe in the art. The most famous authors directly affected by absinthe (or those in whose artwork the presence of absinthe can be found) are listed. Several audiovisual works of art, in which absinthe is more or less correctly displayed, are analyzed.

The work is concluded with explaining the reasons of the author for choosing this theme. The essence of what absinthe today really is – despite many myths – is clarified. Also, some of those myths that have been already successfully dispelled are mentioned.

Keywords: *absinthe, art, culture, ritual, alcohol, absinthism, thujone*