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Partida Tequila añejo stands out as one of the best in its class



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Premium spirits are expensive, and it can be disappointing to try something new and feel cheated. Conversely, there are times when you discover a unique value, and when the taste knocks your socks off - the victory is oh, so sweet.

I was shopping at my local supermarket and looked in the locked liquor cabinet. In between the wood frame that held the glass, I spied a bottle of Partida añejo that was 50% off. Score!

I am a huge fan of Partida reposado, but had not yet tried the añejo. I ran to the customer service clerk and pointed to the cabinet. A few minutes later and I was the proud owner of a tequila I have been waiting a few months to try.

It was worth the wait. Partida's añejo is almost as "perfect" as the reposado - just slightly harsh for my taste. This was cured with a splash of water. And mixed into an Old-Fashioned, and it's nearly perfect.

Tasting Notes

Partida Tequila Añejo is a beautiful, golden caramel color. The aroma is one of sweet butterscotch and almond, with muted notes of floral agave, and slight hints of citrus, cinammon and spices. It is a mild aroma, but multi-layered. If you are using a snifter, be sure to smell the middle and edges of the glass. This will allow you to experience all the wonderful scents Partida añejo has to offer.



The beautiful bottle of Partida Tequila Añejo.



The True Spirit of Tequila
www.partidatequila.com





Unlike many añejos, Partida's is not oily or creamy. That's not a good or bad thing, but it hints at the experience to follow. The zesty, sweet agave flavor remains up front, and it blossoms into a wonderfully complex experience of a variety of flavors, with notes of hazelnut, chocolate, citrus, and banana. There are some pretty pronounced notes of pepper and spices, and I found it to be a little harsh. A splash of water remedied this, and brought out a lot of the flavor. Don't be afraid to do this if you have a tequila that's a bit harsh on your palate (everyone's is different); it's acceptable and helps smooth out harshness. The splash of H2O also brought a nice, consistent finish to this tequila.

Tequila Examiner Grade, Partida Tequila Añejo: B+

Cocktail Tasting and Mixing Notes

With its bold flavor, the Partida añejo is not exclusively for sipping. It holds up great in a cocktail, and I found the Partida Añejo Old-Fashioned (see below) to be the perfect cocktail for this tequila. If you like a bold, but rested, margarita, see the Partida reposado review for the recipe for the Partida margarita. (You can use the añejo as well.)

Partida Añejo Old-Fashioned
(Recipe by Julie Reiner - Flatiron Lounge - Mahattan)

Ingredients:

- * 2 oz of Tequila Aha Toro (blanco, reposado, or añejo)
- * 1/4 oz Partida agave nectar
- * Dash Angostura bitters
- * Orange peel

Directions:

1. In an Old-Fashioned glass, muddle the orange peel, bitters, and agave nectar. Muddle just enough to release the orange oils.
2. Add ice and Partida Añejo.
3. Stir to mix all ingredients.
4. Garnish with brandied cherries on a pick.



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About Partida Tequila

From Partida Tequila: "Partida Tequila is authentic estate-grown premium Tequila, made from 100% blue agave in the heart of Mexico's historic Tequila region. Partida's entire line was awarded Gold and a rating of Exceptional by the world renowned Beverage Tasting Institute at their International Review of Spirits competition. Partida earned Classic, the highest recommendation of 96-100 points across the board in Wine Enthusiast's 2008 Tequila Report.

"In the Spirit Journal, all three Partida Tequilas were awarded five out of five stars by F. Paul Pacult, one of the world's most accomplished and respected authorities in the wine & spirits world today. This marked the first time Pacult has ever given his coveted five stars for an entire tequila line."

For more info: Visit the Partida Tequila website, read my review of Partida Reposado, my interview with Partida founder Gary Shansby, or check out more reviews and tasting notes from the Tequila Examiner.



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