

WINES AND SPIRITS

Wine was made in North America by the Indians long before the arrival of the settlers. In 1000 A.D., Leif Ericsson's Viking explorers made wine from the wild grapes growing near the shores of Newfoundland. Today, most of Canada's flourishing, small and government protected wine industry is concentrated in the Niagara Peninsula, in Southern Ontario and in British Columbia, where soil and climate combine to provide optimum conditions for viniculture. Canadian consumption of wine, both domestic and imported is estimated at twenty million gallons each year.

Canadian distilleries produce almost every type of spirituous liquor. Canadian rye whiskey is a worldwide best seller. It has a distinctive *light* flavour and owes its name to the rye grains from which it was originally distilled. A Canadian liquor which is definitely not "light", is "Screech". Sold in Newfoundland, "Screech" is overproof Caribbean rum and dates back to the eighteenth century. Quebec's apple cider is also a potent drink.

Canadian beer deserves mention for its hearty, full-bodied flavour. A Canadian lager is brewed at the oldest continuously operating brewery in North America.