



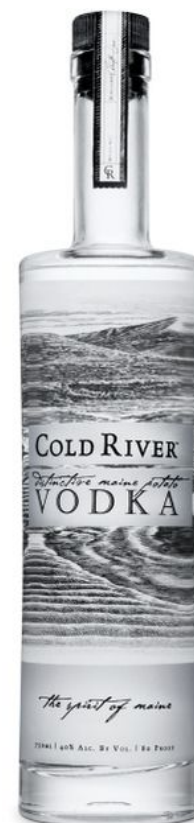
Drink of the Week: Cold River Vodka from Maine

As any true New Yorker can tell you, living in this city comes with constant dreams of escaping to somewhere else. No one who enjoys a proper cocktail is about to turn Amish, but after a stressful week, dreams of that cabin in Montana or the houseboat in Tennessee start to seep through. It's only natural to long for the simpler life. We all know that you'll never actually close up shop and head to the plains, but you need something to take the edge off city life. Luckily there are a few liquors that help us along with their story. **Cold River Vodka** is a gluten-free spirit that is hand-crafted from potatoes and water from a local river. In Maine.

Forget the cabin, just pour a martini and imagine Maine's farmers hard at work. Growing potatoes. Batch distilling the spirit in a copper pot still. Saying hello to the friendly moose who came to watch them make Vodka. Ahhh – the simple life.

Barfly sampled some Cold River the other day. We shook it up in a martini shaker, and let ice crystals form on the side of our glass when we poured. Some folks claim that all Vodka tastes the same, but a true Barfly knows that there is something about potato brands that makes them bolder and earthier. Sipped by itself, Cold River evokes a walk through a field just as spring arrives and the snow starts to melt. We suggest skipping the olives you'd usually place in your martini and using Cold River to make a good old fashioned Gibson. A well chosen cocktail onion will pair perfectly with the savory spirit.

We also tried out their blueberry flavor. Flavored Vodkas have come a loooooong way from the first days of chemical laced citron. The blueberry flavor is tasty and subtle, just like the real fruit (though, we wouldn't suggest using it in pancakes). Better yet, their flavor goes perfectly with the pastoral "escape from New York" theme. It's made with wild Maine blueberries from a family-owned farm and is produced in limited quantities. No word if any Moose were involved, but it sure fulfills our escapist fantasies.



Cold River Wild Blueberry Cosmo

2 oz. Cold River Vodka

.5 oz. Cointreau

1 oz. chilled Wyman's Blueberry juice

Shake; pour. Garnish with a cocktail pick skewered with dried blueberries and a fat twist of orange.

If you're really jonesing for a sip of Maine, you can pick up some Cold River at these NYC liquor stores.

Astor Wines & Spirits – 399 Lafayette Street

Spring Street Wine Shop – 187 Spring Street

Columbus Circle Wine and Spirits – 1802 Broadway