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Cocktail Primer > The Euro Summer Bar

Skip the keg beer and slushy margaritas and look across the pond for a more refined and satisfying summer drink

When you think of low-alcohol, fruit-infused, herbaceous drinks, you think... what? Melon Ball- and Strawberry Hill-flavored bottles of Boone's? Kind of pathetic, right? But there's a long-standing European tradition of making good, nuanced booze on the softer side that lends itself perfectly to summer drinking. Italy has the great mixers Aperol and Campari; France, the utterly drinkable Lillet and the addictive St-Germain; and England, the 170-year-old concoction Pimm's, whose primary cocktail, the Pimm's Cup, is practically a matter of national pride. Except for Lillet, it's inadvisable to swig these things straight. Instead, the soundest, most summery strategy involves adding carbonation, ice, and a twist of something sweet. Raising your glass and saying *cin cin* is optional. —HOWIE KAHN



Aperol

• Infused with "orange, rhubarb, china, and gentian" (whatever that means), it tastes best in this modified version of the Spritz.



1 SHOT APEROL

1½ SHOTS PROSECCO
+ SPLASH OF PELLEGRINO
+ BLOOD-ORANGE WEDGE

The Spritz

Lillet

• If you want to make a drink out of Lillet, add a splash of soda. No science to it; just make it fizzy to your liking.



GLASSFUL OF LILLET

+ SPLASH OF SODA

The Lillet Spritzer

Campari

• Because Campari is essentially a kind of bitters, it needs some diluting and sugaring. The solution, an Americano.



1 SHOT CAMPARI

1 SHOT SWEET VERMOUTH
+ ICE

The Americano

St-Germain

• After discovering this, you will gladly imbibe any beverage made from elderflower blossoms. To enjoy, concoct the Mock Mule.



1 SHOT ST-GERMAIN

1 SHOT HENDRICK'S GIN
+ SPLASH OF GINGER BEER
+ ICE

The Mock Mule

Pimm's

• There are three versions of Pimm's, but stick with the gin-based original No. 1. Try the classic or slightly modified Pimm's Cup.



1 SHOT PIMM'S

+ ICE
+ LEMON-LIME SODA
or GINGER ALE
+ 1 SLICE LIME
or 2 SLICES CUCUMBER

The Pimm's Cup