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# National Tequila Day 2016: 6 Fun Facts About Tequila, Plus 9 Margarita, Cocktail Recipes

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By **Maria G. Valdez** | Jul 23 2016, 11:53PM EDT



Refreshing and delicious, perfect for a hot summer day! Courtesy Photo

Ah, tequila! It's exotic, sophisticated, but if you exceed a certain limit, it's sure going to give you the worst hangover of your life. Tequila is delicate. It's meant to be admired and enjoyed in small quantities, taking your time to warm up to it and letting yourself fall in love little by little. The fastest you take it, the harder is going to hit you, so always be cautious when drinking this nectar of the blue agave plants.

Today is National Tequila Day, a day to celebrate this beverage and enjoy cocktails (particularly margaritas) that use Tequila as the main ingredient, and to make it more fun, we've gathered our favorite cocktail recipes you can try at home with tequila (mostly margaritas), as long as you're 21 and over. But before we share our cocktail-making secrets, here are 6 fun facts about Tequila:

1. On average, Americans purchase 12.3 million cases of tequila a year.
2. Tequila is Mexico's national drink. While Mexico is where tequila originated (more on that later), the United States consumes twice as much tequila.

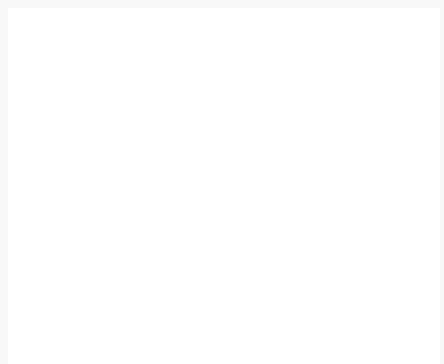
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3. Good tequila, supposedly, does not result in hangovers. That said, it does have a mild hallucinogenic effect.

4. Tequila is made of blue agave Jalisco which is produced in select states in Mexico, including: Guanajuato, Michoacán, Nayarit, and Tamaulipas.

5. Tequila was first created in Tequila, Mexico in the 1500s by the Spanish. The native Aztecs are said to have made a beverage from the blue agave before the Spanish but there's no information regarding whether or not that drink was similar to Tequila.

6. Wondering what the most expensive bottle of Tequila is? A bottle of Platinum & White gold tequila sold for \$225,000 in 2006.



Refreshing and delicious, perfect for a hot summer day! Courtesy Photo

### IMUSA's Blood Orange Margarita

Sea salt

2 ounces silver tequila

1 ounce fresh lime juice

1 1/2 ounce fresh blood orange juice (you may substitute with regular navel oranges if you can't find blood oranges)

1 to 2 teaspoon agave nectar

1 orange round, for garnish

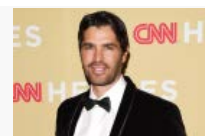
#### Directions:

Using the [IMUSA citrus juicer](#) squeeze the lime and blood orange juices and set aside. Pour some salt onto a small plate. Using the just squeezed lime half and run the wet edge along the rim of your glass. Dip the top of the glass into the salt. Carefully add ice cubes to your glass and set it aside.



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*Fill a small cocktail shaker with ice. Pour in the tequila , freshly squeezed lime, blood orange juice and agave nectar. Shake for 15 to 20 seconds. Strain into your glass and garnish with a slice of blood orange or lime.*



Stay cool with Añejo's Frozen Blueberry Basil Margarita. Courtesy Photo

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#### **Añejo's Frozen Blueberry Basil Margarita (Serves 4)**

**6 oz Herradura Silver**

**3 oz Blueberry Puree**

**3 oz Thai Basil Syrup**

**4 oz Fresh Lime Juice**

**3 cups ice**

*Directions:*

*Blend until smooth and garnish with Basil Leaf.*



Not quite a margarita, but it's a great cocktail if you're hosting. It's refreshing, light and delicious! Courtesy Photo

### **Hornitos Paloma**

**1 part Hornitos® Plata Tequila**

**2 parts fresh ruby red grapefruit juice**

**1 part simple syrup**

**2 parts club soda**

*Directions:*

*Build in order over ice in a tall glass, stirring once before adding soda and once after. Garnish with a lime wedge or grapefruit wedge. Rosemary sprig optional.*



Put a little twist on this classic cocktail and enjoy! Courtesy Photo

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### **Hornitos Manhattan**

**1 ½ parts Hornitos® Añejo Tequila**

**½ part sweet vermouth**

**1 tsp maraschino cherry juice**

#### *Directions:*

*Combine all ingredients over ice. Stir. Strain into cocktail glass. Garnish with a maraschino cherry. Served up, no ice .*



Bet you didn't think you could make a delicious Old Fashioned with tequila? Try this one out and see it for yourself! Courtesy Photo

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### **Hornitos Old Fashioned**

**1 ½ parts Hornitos® Black Barrel® Tequila**

**1 part simple syrup**

**½ part amaro liqueur**

**2 dashes bitters**

**2 dashes orange bitters**

#### *Directions:*

*Combine simple syrup, Hornitos® Black Barrel® Tequila, amaro and bitters. Add ice and stir. Strain over fresh ice and garnish with an orange peel.*



Too hot to go out? You can make the famous Blue Rita from Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville with this recipe!  
Courtesy Photo

**The Blue Rita from Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville:**

1.5 oz. Margaritaville Silver Tequila

.75 oz. Bols Blue Curacao Liqueur

3.5 Lemon-X Margarita Mix

*Directions:*

*Combine all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and pour over ice.*



Simple, delicious and refreshing cocktail, especially if you make it with Avion Tequila. Doesn't get any smoother.  
Courtesy Photo

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**Mexican Pharaoh:**

**2.5 oz. Avión Reposado**

**0.5 oz. Simple Syrup**

**Mint**

*Directions:*

*Lightly muddle mint in a mixing glass, add the remainder of the ingredients and stir without ice. Strain over crushed ice in a rocks glass or julep tin, top with champagne and garnish with a mint sprig.*





Make this Bloody Maria extra tasteful with delicious Avion Silver tequila. Courtesy Photo

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**Bloody Maria :**

1 1/2 parts Avión Silver

4 parts Tomato Juice

2 tsp Horseradish

1/2 part Worcestershire Sauce

2 Dashes Hot Sauce

Squeeze Lemon

Squeeze Lime

Salt and Pepper

*Directions:*

*Combine ingredients in a Collins glass with ice, and stir. Do not shake. Garnish as desired.*



The perfect summer drink! Courtesy Photo

### Blushing Watermelon and Rosemary Margarita

2 parts Milagro Silver Tequila

1 part Fresh Lime Juice

¾ parts Agave Nectar

4 Watermelon Chunks

1 Rosemary Sprig

#### Optional:

2 dashes Fee Brothers Lemon Bitters

#### Directions:

*Muddle fruit and herbs, add remaining ingredients. Shake and strain over fresh ice. Garnish with Rosemary Sprig and Lemon Wheel.*

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**Maria G. Valdez**

Born and raised Dominican living in New York (do not confuse with Dominican-York), who claims to be Sofia Vergara's long lost daughter and who has an unhealthy obsession with JLo. Associate Editor of Latin Times, overseeing the editorial operation and content strategy of the website. Trained journalist and musical theater performer with solid entertainment instincts. Experience covering human interest stories and social and large scale events with focus on Latino entertainment. Maria began her career in journalism in her native Dominican Republic where she worked for Ritmo Social, one of the country's most prestigious magazines, and as on-air co-host of a radio variety show.

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