



Nashville Whiskey Festival 2012

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By Jan Ross

When we were in Ireland a couple of years ago, we had a few nips of hooch and, incidentally, did you know there are over 20 synonyms for whiskey? And some of them are pretty strange? Like poteen and usquebaugh for example. I can only assume those nicknames were arrived upon after one too many glasses of poteen. Or usquebaugh.

Anyway, while we were in Ireland, toasting each other with a merry Slainte, which is how they toast on the Emerald Isle, our Irish friends assured us that only this particular form of liquor from Ireland was spelled with an e – “whiskey”.

We absolutely believed this – it could possibly have been from having a little too much white lightning (yet another nickname) until we came back to the United States and noticed that all the bottles in the liquor store were also labeled “whiskey” and not “whisky”.

In reality, whiskey from the United States AND Ireland are spelled with an “e”, it’s the ones from other locations like Canada that drop the “e” and go with “whisky”. So we can thank our Irish heritage for that extra “e”.

When you are ready to sample some of that lovely beverage, you should head to the Inaugural Whiskey Festival in Nashville, TN on September 20 - 22 at the War Memorial Auditorium.

There, you are going to find the finest American made whiskeys and bourbons (another name for whiskey made in different locations) in the South and meet distillers and distillery representative. You will learn all about the unique story behind each of the whiskeys which will include Buffalo Trace, Blanton’s, George T. Stagg and many others.

Guests at the special V.I.P. tasting on September 20 will also receive a special edition Nashville Whiskey Festival tasting glass as well as a collector’s edition flask from the distillery. With a variety of seminars and tastings, including one especially for women, this will truly be a great event for whiskey aficionados.

But don’t think drinking fine whiskey is the only culinary delight Nashville has to offer – there are also plenty of fabulous restaurants as well. Before you polish off all those shots, you might want to have a belly full of one of Nashville’s finest meal.

The Demos family has been in the restaurant business since 1943 and this family-owned and run dining establishment is the perfect place to relax and enjoy a casual and fun atmosphere. The location in downtown Nashville opened in 1992 and has been a favorite place to dine since the day they opened their doors. There’s plenty of parking in a nearby parking structure or parking lots and it’s located right near all the downtown honky-tonks where you can stroll around and listen to live music all day and night.

You will find some great choices on the menu ranging from spaghetti and meatballs to succulent steak, but we particularly enjoyed their freshly made hamburgers on delicious Ciabatta bread. Get the mushroom burger – “topped with mozzarella cheese and mushrooms sautéed with garlic, butter, onions, herbs and spices” – I guarantee you won’t be sorry.

My other recommendation is Amerigo’s Italian Restaurant. This one is not located downtown, but it has free parking so that’s a big plus. They specialize in Italian food and seafood dishes but I had the prime sirloin and it was one of the best steaks I have ever eaten. With a slightly more upscale atmosphere, this is the place for a fine dining experience.

So, head to Nashville for the whiskey but stay for the food.

Sounds like a great plan to me.

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<http://www.nashvillewhiskeyfestival.com>

September 20 - 22

War Memorial Auditorium

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