Mix it UP!

Site serves drink recipes

New Year's Eve is traditionally a time for reflection, resolutions and, of course, partying! Family and friends may be visiting from out of town and, this year, New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday, which will give most people an extra day to recover from the festivities.

That doesn't mean you should overdo it with drinking and eating — and if you are going to drink, don't drive. But most people will stay up later than usual, and eat and drink a little more than they normally would. There's nothing wrong with cutting loose a little every once in a while.

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InSites

If you're having a party, or wondering what you can take to a party, **DrinksMixer.com** may have an answer.

Belly up to the bar

This website has thousands of drink recipes, catering to any taste imaginable. The site is for adults of drinking age, so the names of some of the drinks are pretty raunchy — and unprintable in this paper.

The recipes are searchable in several ways. There's an alphabetical list of all the drinks on the site that you can browse. You can also search by name, by ingredients (such as a type of liquor or mixer), or by drink category (such as punches or shots).

Each recipe starts with a brief explanation of the character of the drink, followed by a list of ingredients. You can enter the number of servings you want and the ingredient measurements will automatically adjust. Next are directions for mixing the drink. Many drinks also feature video instructions. There are comments from people who have tried the drink expressing their delight or disgust. Each drink also is rated on a scale of 1 to 10 by visitors to the site. Finally, there's a list of other popular drinks in the same category and nutrition information.

Shaken, not stirred

Readers' comments on some of the libations indicate that people are very passionate about what they drink. For example, "Lone Wolf" posted "This drink friggin rocks" about Irish Car Bombs. Maybe the posters are just wasted.

The Irish Car Bomb recipe ignited a long, fierce debate over whether it's appropriate to order one in an Irish bar. Apparently it depends on the bartender. You'll either be happily served with a chuckle, or you'll be served a knuckle sandwich. Either way, people love this drink. It scored a 9.8 and got rave reviews.

There's more than just drink recipes on the site. A row of tabs across the top of the page provides links to the different areas of the site.

The home page tab is the first one. This page is a bit busy, yet still fairly organized and easy to navigate. It's main feature is a customizable search field. There's also a "Drink of the Day," featuring drinks of the week and month, and a list of the site's most popular drinks. A column on the left features additional navigation links.

The next tab is a forum where site members can share recipes, stories, interests and laughs, or ask questions. You have to register to participate in the forum.

The third tab takes you to an advanced search page. There's a much wider range of parameters you can enter for your searches on this page than on the home page. Besides the name or drink category, you can enter multiple ingredients, the type of glass used, alcohol content, calories, voter rating and more.

A "Bartender Guide" is the next tab. This section has information for both the professional and in-home bartender. It covers stock, equipment, techniques and more.

A glossary of drink-related terms is the fifth tab.

Bottoms up!

The final tab is devoted to drinking games. There's a list of almost 50 games played with cards, coins or dice — and, of course, booze. Each game has a list of items needed and detailed instructions on how to play. The goal of the games is to get you over the limit as quickly as possible.

DrinksMixer is a useful site if you're looking for drink recipes, or need information on setting up a bar. It's fairly well done, with decent organization and navigation. The design and editing need to be tightened up a bit. It occupies a space between an impressive amateur site and a slick, professional site.

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