

Sixties Drinks

Beer

Beer was by far the most popular alcoholic drink in the 60s. People generally preferred bitter and increasingly one of the more popular keg brands: Watneys Red Barrel, Double Diamond, Whitbread Tankard or Younger's Tartan. At home canned beer was in its infancy. Long Life by Ind Coope being a pioneer of canned ale. Bottled beer was generally preferred. For a big party you could always get in a barrel of ale.

At a party in 'Up the Junction' (1963), by Nell Dunn, there were crates of brown ale and bottles of Babycham. Both women and men drank brown ale. Babycham, a sparkling perry, was exclusively a ladies' drink, and was usually served in a special glass.



Bitter, or best pale ale was something of a working class luxury. Bottled pale ale could be keg or cask in the sixties. Double Diamond and Bass Red Triangle had a strong following. Worthington White Shield IPA was also around then.

Lager was gaining popularity in the sixties; the well known brands being Carlsberg, Heineken, Skol or Harp. Light ale was also popular. In the fifties it was considered a lady's drink, but it became acceptable for men as well in the sixties.

Wine

Wine drinking was a minority activity in the sixties. For the posher, more formal parties, the order was to start with a sherry (Tio Pepe or Harvey's Bristol Cream) then move onto white wine, then red wine and finally a cognac.

Popular French white wines included Chablis, Pouilly-Fuissé, Macon, White Graves, Sauternes (sweet wine)

German wines - Moselle, Hock, Riesling

Rosé - Rosé D'Anjou, Mateus

Red wines - Bordeaux (Clarets - Médoc or St Emilion) Chianti (the bottles were used to hold candles)

A favourite with the ladies was Babycham, which is still available. Port and lemon and rum and coke were also popular.



If you wanted something stronger, Haig Whisky or VAT 69 were extremely popular, especially Dimple Haig. The bottles were attractive and often recycled into table lamps! For a classic cognac the original Remy Martin was the preferred choice. In the late Sixties, Berni Inns used to offer a range of coffees laced with liqueurs or whisky. 'Irish coffee' was a favourite.



Non-alcoholic drinks



There was a wide choice of fizzy drinks available in the Sixties - Cherryade, Tizer, Wrights lemonade, dandelion and burdock, creme soda. Some small shops still made up their own 'pop'. There were various cordials and fruit barley water. Ribena was regarded as a health drink, as was Lucozade. Some families made their own ginger beer, and many had a soda siphon for adding a sparkle to cordials.

Tea and Coffee

Tea was the drink of choice in most households (there were no tea-bags back then) though when instant coffee replaced the dreadful Camp coffee it became quickly popular. Cocoa, Bournvita, Ovaltine and Horlicks were all drunk as night-caps.