A Date with Mezcal

Posted on EntertainThePossibilities.com Recipe source: Ilise Goldberg

INGREDIENTS:

2 oz Mezcal

1 oz Tequila

½ oz Orange Liqueur such as Cointreau

2 ¾ oz Pineapple Juice (canned or fresh)

½ oz Fresh Squeezed Lime Juice

¼ oz Hot Pepper Infused Date Syrup (see recipe below)

Tajin seasoning to rim THE glass

Pineapple for garnish



DIRECTIONS:

In a shaker stir mezcal, tequila and date syrup together to allow the syrup to dissolve into the mix. Add Cointreau, pineapple juice, lime juice and ice and shake.

Run a lime wedge around half the rim of a doubles glass and dip in Tajin seasoning.

Pour the mix over one large ice cube or a couple of smaller solid cubes and garnish with a pineapple wedge.

I chose to infuse the date syrup with chiles instead of the Mezcal as the syrup may have multiple uses. However it is certainly possible to infuse the mezcal with chile peppers instead.

Hot Pepper Infused Date Syrup:

Hot Pepper infused Date Syrup inspired by a recipe from The View From Great Island

Ingredients:

1 cup date syrup

About 3 Tbsp crushed red peppers (approx.. 10 small dried peppers or to taste). Another option is to try using some chipotle peppers to add a little extra smoke, but you'll probably still need to add red peppers to get enough heat.

Instructions:

Put the date syrup and the peppers in a double boiler or a glass bowl or measuring cup over a saucepan of boiling water.

Mix the peppers into the date syrup and heat for several minutes until the temp is about 150 degrees F. A thermometer isn't necessary, but you don't want the date syrup to get too hot. Turn off the heat and let the date syrup sit over the water and steep for about 10 minutes.

Taste the syrup – if not enough heat add some more peppers and repeat step 2.

While the date syrup is lukewarm, strain it into a clean jar or jars.

The date syrup can also be served with cheese. If you don't have easy access to date syrup you could use honey instead.