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What is Absinthe?

Basic Definition:

Absinthe is historically described as a distilled, highly alcoholic beverage (45–74% ABV / 90–148 U.S. proof). It is an anise-flavoured spirit derived from botanicals, including the flowers and leaves of *Artemisia absinthium* ("grand wormwood"), together with green anise, sweet fennel and other medicinal and culinary herbs.

'Absinthe' (2020) Wikipedia. Available at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absinthe> (Accessed: 19 December 2020).

"The Holy Trinity"



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What is Wormwood?



Ebers Papyrus - circa 1600 BC



Grand Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)



Pythagoras



Hippocrates



Galen



Pliny the Elder



Dioscorides

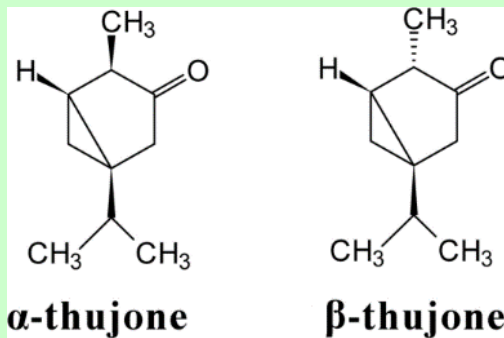
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Thujone

It has been suggested that thujone and δ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the most active constituent of cannabis, interact with a common receptor in the CNS and so have similar psychotropic effects (Del Castillo et al 1975).

However, thujone binds with relatively low affinity to cannabinoid CB1 and CB2 receptors and fails to mimic δ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol at appropriate doses (Meschler & Howlett 1999)

Absinthes produced according to historical recipes are very low in thujone (0-4.3 mg/L) and a psychotropic effect from this amount is unlikely (Lachenmeier et al 2005)

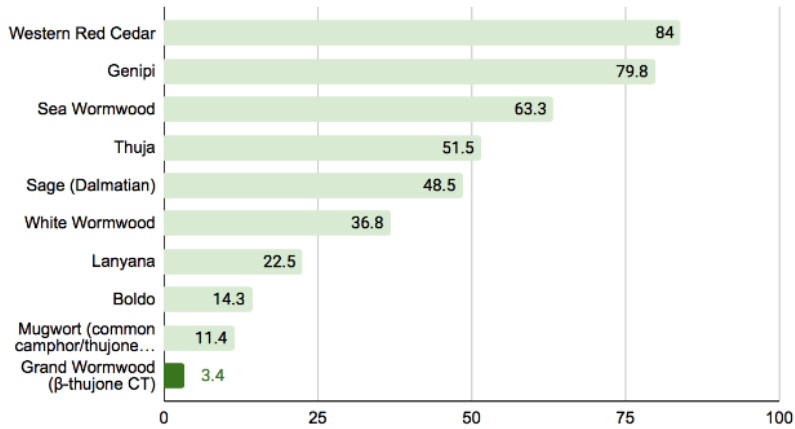


Thujones' purported hallucinogenic and epileptogenic effects have been disproven except at extremely high concentrations, and "absinthism" has been largely proven to be a result of alcoholism. (Kathy Abascal BS, JD, RH(AHG), Eric L. Yarnell ND, RH(AHG), in Textbook of Natural Medicine (Fifth Edition), 2020)

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Thujone

Constituent Profiles (-)- α -Thujone Maximum Percentages



Constituent Profiles (-)- α -Thujone

Western Red Cedar 63.5–84.0%
 Genipi 79.8%
 Sea Wormwood 63.3%
 Thuja 48.7–51.5%
 Sage (Dalmatian) 13.1–48.5%
 White Wormwood 25.7–36.8%
 Lanyana 22.5%
 Boldo 14.3%
 Mugwort (common, camphor/thujone CT) 11.4%
 Wormwood (β -thujone CT) 2.3–3.4%

Robert Tisserand, Rodney Young PhD, in *Essential Oil Safety - Second Edition, 2014*

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Absinthe Production and Types



Grand Wormwood



Dried Grand Wormwood



Wormwood Leaves



Aniseed



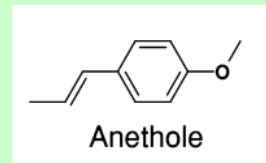
Fennel



Maceration



Distillation



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Absinthe Production and Types



Grand Wormwood



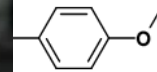
Maceration



Aniseed



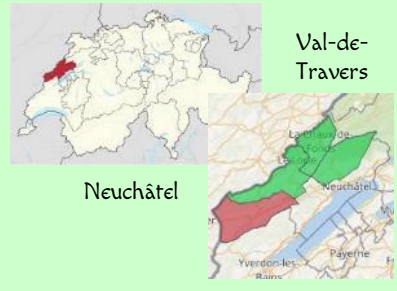
Fennel



Anethole

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Absinthe Production and Types



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Absinthe Production and Types



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Absinthe Production and Types



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Absinthe Production and Types



Post-Distillation Maceration



Hyssop



Melissa



Petite Wormwood

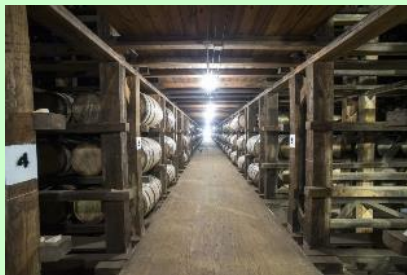


Filtration




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Absinthe Production and Types



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The Fascinating History of Absinthe






Dr. Pierre Ordinaire


Dr. Ordinaire escapes from France to Couvet, Switzerland during the French Revolution. Credited with the invention of absinthe as an elixir.






Henri-Louis Pernod


Major Dubied's daughter marries Henri-Louis Pernod. Dubied and Pernod open the first absinthe distillery ever in Couvet.





French Colonial Wars in North Africa

French soldiers were given a daily ration of absinthe for treatment of malaria and parasites.



1769?

Circa 1792

Mother Henriod and the Henriod Sisters

Supposedly selling a product advertised as "Bon Extrait d'Absinthe" by the year 1769.

Circa 1795

Major Daniel-Henri Dubied

Dubied buys Henriod sisters' recipe and starts producing his own absinthe.

1797

1805

Pernod

The Pernod factory expands and moves across the border to Pontarlier, France.

1830-1848

1880

Great French Wine Blight/Phylloxera

By 1880, failing vineyards in France make absinthe cheaper than wine. Overconsumption starts to become a problem.

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The Fascinating History of Absinthe



La Belle Époque

Period characterized by peace, prosperity, and a flourishing art and literary movement. Several artists used absinthe as their muse, some to a tragic extent.



Arrest and Trial of Oscar Wilde

This fin de siècle turning point marked society's movement away from the era's bohemianism. On the other hand, Pernod alone is producing 125,000 liters of absinthe a day.



The Absinthe Murders

Jean Lanfray murders his family in a drunken rage. The public is quick to blame absinthe for the crime. This sets the wheels of absinthe prohibition into overdrive.

1880-1914

1895

1905



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L'IMPARTIAL

JOURNAL QUOTIDIEN et FEUILLE D'ANNONCES

paraissant à la Chaux-de-Fonds, tous les jours excepté le Lundi.

Les Crimes de la boisson - L'Affaire de Commugny

Le verdict - Jean Lanfray est condamné à la réclusion à perpétuité

(De notre correspondant spécial à Nyon)
NYON, le 24 Février.
 Pour éviter le retour de passions, comme celui qui se sont produites vendredi après-midi, à l'entrée du Château et dans l'escalier qui conduit à la salle du Tribunal, le gendarme a fait tendre des cordons dans la cour. L'entrée du public, grâce à cette précaution, se fait normalement.

Le réquisitoire du ministère public

L'audience est reprise à 9 h. 15.
 Après avoir, de part et d'autre, arrêté le programme des questions soumises au jury, M. le procureur général adjoint, Alfred Oberst, commence son réquisitoire.
 Il y a six mois, dit-il, alors qu'il même se terminait les débats de l'affaire des incendiaires de la Côte, on reprochait le crime épouvantable, qui écartait étonnement tout le canton de Yverdon, et la Suisse, et provoquer une pétition nombreuse contre l'absolutisme. On pouvait supposer, d'après les premiers faits, que l'on avait vu apparaître à la barre du tribunal, une logique humaine, un pauvre père défilé et dément. Au contraire, on se trouve en présence d'un jeune et beau garçon, qui n'a pas atteint l'âge de la vie du fruit de ses œuvres, qui se lâchement tué sa femme et ses deux petits enfants. Il faut se reporter vers cette femme et digne femme, se rappeler ce spectacle horrible, cette épouvantable boucherie. Cette femme qui avait tous les avantages extérieurs,

arrivé, tel, une lourde responsabilité: le père, et surtout la mère de Lanfray. Le père, qui a manqué l'honneur; la mère, qui s'est ingéniée à rendre la vie impossible à sa bru. La femme Lanfray avait tous les soucis; elle avait à sa charge tous les travaux de la maison. On c'est elle que l'on traitait de « femme », de « parvenue ». On l'insultait. Sa belle-mère lui jetait à la face la plus infamie — comme aussi la plus injuste — des injures. On lui cria: « Oublie de là, ou je te plante ma faux dans la ventre! Plus en silence, moins on trouve, chez la victime le moindre tort: »
 Ici, M. Oberst prouve, en reprenant les dispositions, toutes les qualités de Marie Lanfray, tous les morales penchants de son mari...
 M. le syndic Heremijak, continue M. Oberst, et déclaré, ici, que les jeunes gens vont tout à la pièce, et qu'ils devraient être plus au travail il a mille fois raison; et je le félicite hautement d'avoir eu le courage de signaler publiquement, dans des circonstances aussi solennelles les tristes habitudes de quelques-uns de ses administrés, qui sont suisses, bilingues et fait le reconnaître, celles d'un très grand nombre de Vaudois.
 Tout a été injuste et errané vis-à-vis de la pauvre femme. Son mari, ses parents, tous se tournaient contre elle, et cela sans motifs. Et c'est cette femme, bonne, travailleuse, excellente mère, qu'un parvenu, un débauché, a métréclement massacré.
L'alcoolisme remplit les pénitenciers

La défense

A 11 h. 10, après une courte suspension d'audience, M. Henri Chelin, défenseur de Lanfray, prend la parole. Au moment de l'épouvantable crime de Commugny, dit-il, l'opinion publique s'est vivement émue. Mais aujourd'hui, on a plus de sang-froid. On demandait que le coupable fût puni haut et court. On est revenu à une plus saine notion de la justice. Il faut se mettre en garde contre les embellissements de l'opinion publique. Le crime imputé à Lanfray est particulièrement épouvantable. Il a été accompli avec une sauvagerie effrayante. Mais cette sauvagerie, premièrement, donne à penser que l'on se trouve en présence d'un malade, d'un homme momentanément fou. Il a fallu être fou pour commettre un tel forfait. M. le Dr Mahaux a été positif: il y a là un cas de responsabilité limitée.
 L'alcoolisme fait à notre pays un mal énorme. Si nous n'y prenons garde, nous marchons à la ruine matérielle et morale. Mais je ne peut dire qu'il ait joué un rôle dans cette affaire. Lanfray buvait, c'est certain; il buvait même beaucoup, mais pas plus que d'autres: il portait bien son vin, comme on dit dans le canton. On a pu prétendre qu'il avait emmagasiné de l'alcool depuis longtemps et que la machine à alcool avait sauté. Non, Lanfray avait un casque qu'un alcoolique n'a jamais. Il y aurait eu une violente scène de délire, il se fût jeté sur les cadavres. Rien de tout cela; il reste calme. Il prend sa fille, dans le bras, et dit: « Je suis un homme... »

de la scène. Quelle précision, peut-on dire qu'on prétend être fou et irresponsable! Mais on le fait d'un homme irresponsable, celle réponse: « J'ai vu la tête! » (Réaction à la tribune.) Non, Lanfray n'est pas un malade. Sa maladie vient bien à propos pour chercher à blanchir un misérable assassin. On insiste sur ce fait que, si Lanfray était riche et irresponsable et tueur, il serait remis aux autorités françaises pour être interné. Or pour obtenir un internement, il faut une déclaration médicale; jamais le Dr Mahaux ne donnerait une telle déclaration, puisqu'il nous a dit que « Lanfray est guéri ». On vous demande donc d'acquiescer un assassin. Si tel devrait être le cas, j'en viendrais à douter de la justice!
 A 4 heures, les débats sont déclarés clos. Lanfray, en sanglotant, dit qu'il n'a rien à ajouter, et se lève à se retirer. Après un quart d'heure de délibération, il rentre et rend le verdict suivant, écouté au milieu d'un silence solennel:
 Lanfray est-il coupable d'avoir, à Commugny, volontairement donné la mort à sa femme et à ses enfants.
 Réponse: Oui, à l'unanimité.
 Lors de l'arrestation de cet délinquant, Lanfray se trouvait-il dans un état de démence, ou était-il atteint d'une maladie ou d'une infirmité qui le mettait hors d'état d'apprécier les conséquences et la moralité de ses actes?
 Réponse: Non, à l'unanimité.
 Existait-il des circonstances atténuantes en

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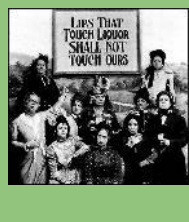
The Fascinating History of Absinthe



Switzerland Referendum
 On July 5th, the Swiss referendum is held and Article 32 to the Swiss Constitution is passed, banning the possession and manufacturing of absinthe.



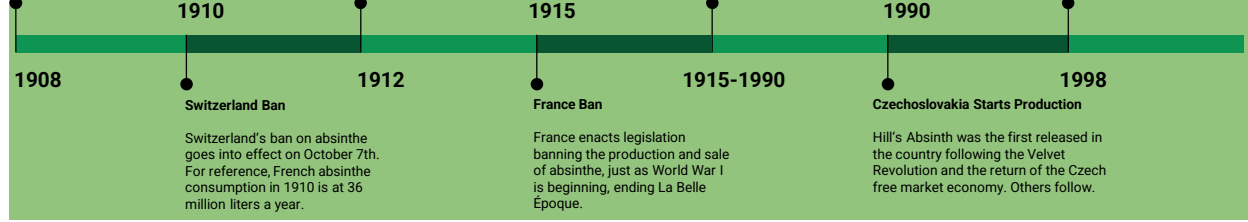
USA Ban
 The US Senate votes to ban absinthe and all drinks containing thujone nationally 8 years before Prohibition.



The Silent Period
 Small-level production continues in countries like Spain, where bans were never enacted. Absinthe's bad reputation grows.





George Rowley
 Rowley launched Czech absinthe in the UK, started eAbsinthe, the first online absinthe retailer, and applied EU directives for thujone limits to absinthe in the UK.





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The Fascinating History of Absinthe












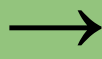


La Fée Absinthe Released

George Rowley and Marie-Claude Delahaye release the first traditional distilled absinthe commercially produced in France since the French ban started.

Absinthe Trail Opens

A Franco-Swiss effort is started to establish an ever-growing absinthe trail between the two countries, starting in Neuchâtel and ending in Pontarlier.



2000		2007		2013		2019		2023-
	2005		2011		2019		2023-	
	Switzerland Ban Lifted		USA Ban Lifted		France Ban Lifted		Absinthe de Pontarlier PGI	
	Switzerland lifts absinthe ban after 95 years - 100 years after the Lanfray murders.		The United States lifts absinthe ban after 95 years.		France formally votes to lift the ban on absinthe after 96 years.		On August 19th, the EU issues a PGI for Absinthe de Pontarlier and the regulations for its production.	

Absinthe Drinking Rituals

Absinthiana - the accoutrements surrounding Absinthe and its preparation



Fountain



Sugar cube



Spoon



Brouilleur (Scrambler/Mixer)



"Balancier" Style (Pendulum/Seesaw)



Reservoir Glass



Carafe

Absinthe Drinking Rituals

Absinthiana - the accoutrements surrounding Absinthe and its preparation



Fountain



Sugar cube



Spoon



Reservoir Glass



Brouilleur (Scrambler/Mixer)



Look at him go!!

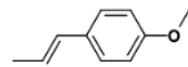


Carafe

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Absinthe Drinking Rituals

White/Blanche Absinthe (La Bleue)
- The Swiss Technique



Anethole

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Absinthe Drinking Rituals

White/Blanche Absinthe (La Bleue) - The Swiss Technique



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Absinthe Drinking Rituals

White/Blanche Absinthe (La Bleue) - The Swiss Technique



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Absinthe Drinking Rituals

Green/Verte Absinthe - The French Technique



Absinthe Gommé



Sirop de Gommé - (Simple Syrup)

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Absinthe Drinking Rituals

The Czech Technique (aka - The Wrong Way)



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Absinthe Cocktails



Sazerac

Created by Antoine Peychaud in 1838 at Peychaud's shop in New Orleans. (Debated)

- 5 cl cognac (rye is optional sub.)
- 1 cl absinthe
- 1 sugar cube
- 2 dashes Peychaud's Bitters

Rinse a chilled old-fashioned glass with absinthe, add crushed ice, and set aside. Stir remaining ingredients over ice and set aside. Discard ice and excess absinthe from prepared glass and strain drink into glass. Add lemon peel for garnish (IBA)



Corpse Reviver #2

- 3 cl gin
- 3 cl lemon juice
- 3 cl curaçao (sub. Cointreau)
- 3 cl Kina Lillet (sub. Cocchi Americano)
- 1 dash absinthe

Shake ingredients together in a mixer with ice. Strain into chilled glass. Garnish with orange zest

"Four of these taken in swift succession will unrevive the corpse again."

(Harry Craddock, The Savoy Cocktail Book, 1930)



Monkey Gland

Created in the 1920s by Harry MacElhone, owner of Harry's New York Bar in Paris

- 45 ml gin
- 45 ml orange juice
- 1 tbsp absinthe
- 1 tbsp grenadine

Shake well over ice cubes in a shaker and strain into a chilled cocktail glass

(IBA)

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Absinthe Cocktails



Absinthe Frappé

Created by Cayetano Ferrer in 1874 at The Absinthe Room (now The Old Absinthe House) in New Orleans.

- 1 ½ oz absinthe
- ½ oz simple syrup

Add absinthe and simple syrup to cocktail shaker and fill 3/4 with ice. Shake until chilled, about 12 seconds. Strain into a double rocks glass or julep cup filled with crushed ice. Stir, top with more crushed ice, then garnish with a sprig of mint.

(Amy Traynor, MoodyMixologist.com)



Absinthe Suisse

- 2 oz absinthe
- 1 oz dry vermouth
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 oz sparkling water
- 1 egg white
- ½ oz crème de menthe

Dissolve sugar with sparkling water, add vermouth and absinthe. Add egg white and dry shake. Fill shaker with ice and shake vigorously.

Strain into coupe where there is a cherry in crème de menthe.

(Stanley Clisby Arthur, Famous New Orleans Drinks and How to Mix Em, 1937)



Absinthe Panachée

- 1 oz absinthe
- 1 oz anisette liqueur
- Iced water

Pour first two ingredients into glass. Served iced water separately in a small jug so the drinker can dilute to their own taste (4 ½ oz is recommended). Add ice to glass.

One of the earliest known absinthe mixtures. Commonly considered "the only way a 'lady' should consume absinthe".

(DiffordsGuide.com / OriginalAbsinthe.com)

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Absinthe Cocktails



La Tour Eiffel

- 1/4 oz absinthe
- 2 1/2 oz XO cognac
- 1/2 oz Cointreau
- 1/2 oz Suze

Pour absinthe into a chilled Champagne flute, tilt and rotate to coat glass. Add ice and set aside. Stir remaining ingredients in a mixing glass with fresh ice. Discard the ice and any excess absinthe from the prepared flute and strain the drink into it. Garnish with a lemon twist.

(Created by Gary Regan in 2007 - Liquor.com)



Billionaire Cocktail

Created by Dushan Zaric at Employees Only in New York City

- 2 oz. high-proof bourbon, such as Baker's
- 1 oz. fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 oz. simple syrup
- 1/4 oz. absinthe
- 1/4 oz. grenadine syrup made from pomegranate

Combine ingredients in a shaker over ice. Shake vigorously and strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with a (dehydrated) lemon wheel.

(Saveur.com)

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Absinthe Cocktails



Death in the Afternoon / The Hemingway

Created by Ernest Hemingway

- absinthe
- Champagne

Hemingway's original instructions:

Pour one jigger absinthe into a Champagne glass. Add iced Champagne until it attains the proper opalescent milkiness. Drink three to five of these slowly.

(Various Authors, So Red the Nose/Breath in the Afternoon, 1935)



Tremblement de Terre (The Earthquake)

Created by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

- 3 parts absinthe
- 3 parts cognac

Combine in wine goblet or brandy balloon

Modern recipe (Kelli Billstein, 'The Art of the Meal', Saveur.com, April 2014):

- 2 1/2 oz. cognac
- 1/4 oz. absinthe

Stir in a cocktail shaker with ice. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass; garnish with a lemon twist.

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*Merci
Beaucoup!*



*A votre
santé!*

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Appendix A: Other Absinthe Types



Red (Rouge) and Rosé - can be flavored and colored with hibiscus, saffron, paprika, and other botanicals, which generally makes the palate more floral and delicate.



Absinthe Barrique / Barrel-Aged Absinthe - aged for substantially longer periods in different types of wooden containers. Takes on some whisky/cognac-type properties.



Czech / Bohemian-style Absinthe - higher ABV and contains no anise. Does not adhere to EU standards of absinthe identity. More similar to wormwood bitters and usually made with inferior ingredients. Generally bigger alcohol and mint profile. Spelled without the final 'e'.



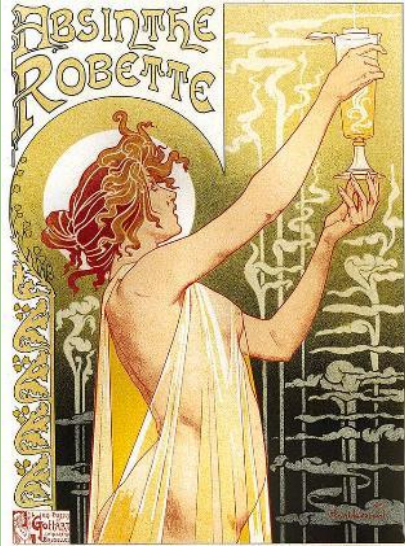
Absenta - from Spain (particularly Tarragona) where Pernod started production after the French ban. Spain never placed a ban on absinthe production. Has a characteristic citrus quality, due to its use of Alicante anise.



Hausgemacht (HG) - clandestine absinthe produced at home (absinthe moonshine). This absinthe is illegal and has the potential to be very dangerous, especially if production involves cold compounding with any wormwood oils or tinctures. Thujone levels must be monitored very closely with any condensed form of wormwood.

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Appendix B: Art - Posters



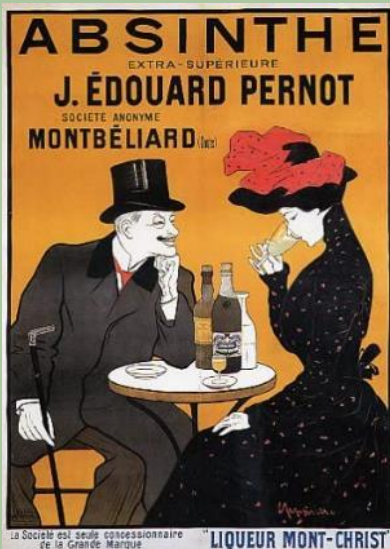
Poster for Absinthe Robette, Henri Privat-Livemont, 1896



Poster for Absinthe Ducros fils, Leonetto Cappiello, 1901

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Appendix B: Art - Posters



Poster for J. Édouard Pernot Absinthe extra-supérieure, Leonetto Cappiello, 1900



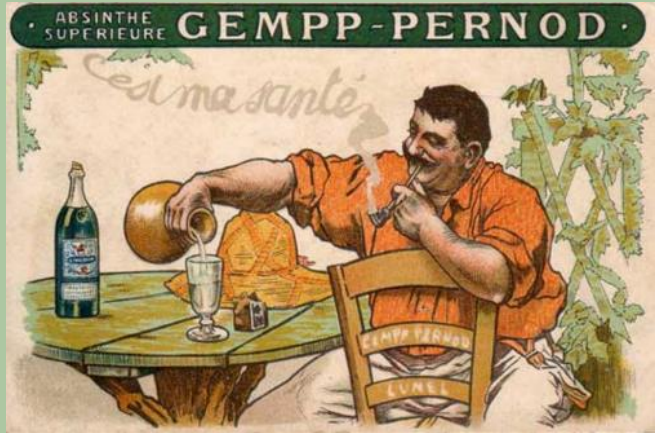
Poster for Absinthe Blanqui, "Nover" (artist unknown), 1898-1901

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Appendix B: Art - Posters



Poster for Rosinette Absinthe Rose Oxygénée, Camis, 1910 (only historical proof of pink absinthe)



"C'est ma santé" (It's my health), Poster for Absinthe Gempp-Pernod, Victor Leydet, 1912

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Appendix B: Art - Propaganda



L'Alcool! Voilà l'ennemi, Frédéric Christol, 1910



La Terreur au 20e Siècle (Terror in the 20th Century), Albert Gantner, Guggus Journal, circa 1905

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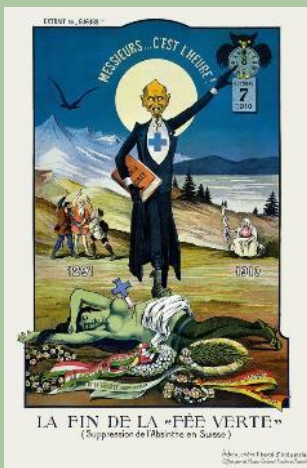
Appendix B: Art - Propaganda



L'Absinthe C'est La Mort
(Absinthe is Death),
Lucien Monod, 1905

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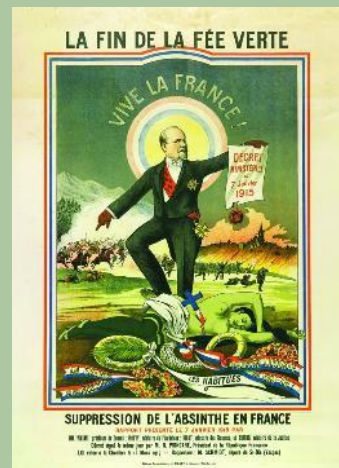
Appendix B: Art - Propaganda



La Fin De La Fée Verte (The End of the Green Fairy), Alfred Gantner, 1910



Suppression de L'Absinthe (Removal of Absinthe), Audino, 1915



La Fin De La Fée Verte (The End of the Green Fairy), Alfred Gantner, 1915

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Appendix B: Fine Art



Piják absintu (Absinthe Drinker),
Viktor Oliva, 1901



Le Buveur d'absinthe (The Absinthe Drinker),
Édouard Manet, 1859

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Appendix B: Fine Art



L'Absinthe, Edgar Degas,
1876



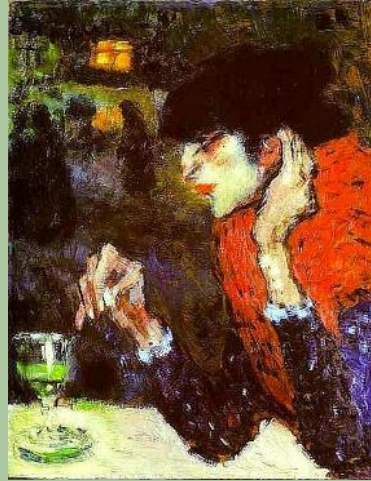
La Muse Verte, Albert Maignan, 1895

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Appendix B: Fine Art



Monsieur Boileau au Café, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, 1893



The Absinthe Drinker, Pablo Picasso, 1901

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Appendix C: Absinthe in Literature

Lendemain (Avec les Fleurs, Avec les Femmes)

Avec les Fleurs, avec les Femmes,
Avec l'Absinthe, avec le Feu,
On peut se divertir un peu,
Jouer son rôle en quelque drame.

L'absinthe bue un soir d'hiver,
Eclaire en vert l'âme enfumée,
Et les Fleurs, sur la bien-aimée
Embaument devant le Feu clair.

Puis, les baisers perdent leurs charmes,
Ayant dure quelques saisons.
Les reciproques trahisons
Font qu'on se quitte un jour sans larmes.

On brûle lettres et bouquets,
Et le Feu se met à l'alcôve;
Et si la triste vie est sauvée,
Reste l'Absinthe et ses hoquets...

Les portraits sont mangés des flammes...
Les doigts crispés sont tremblotants...
On meurt d'avoir dormi longtemps
Avec les Fleurs, avec les Femmes.

With Flowers and With Women

With Flowers, and with Women
With Absinthe, and with this Fire,
We can divert ourselves awhile,
Act out our part in some drama.

Absinthe, on a winter evening,
Lights up in green the sooty soul;
And Flowers, on the beloved,
Grow fragrant before the clear Fire.

Later, kisses lose their charm
Having lasted several seasons;
And after mutual betrayals
Still there is Absinthe and its hiccupps...

We burn letters and bouquets.
And Fire takes our bower;
And if sad life is salvaged
Still there is Absinthe and its hiccupps...

The portraits are eaten by flames...
Shriveled fingers tremble...
We die from sleeping long
With Flowers, and with Women.

Charles Cros, 1873

Spleen et idéal - XLV. Le Poison

Le vin sait revêtir le plus sordide hovel
D'un luxe miraculeux,
Et fait surgir plus d'un portique fabuleux
Dans l'or de sa vapeur rouge,
Comme un soleil couchant dans un ciel
nébuleux.

L'opium agrandit ce qui n'a pas de
bornes,
Allonge l'illimité,
Approfondit le temps, creuse la volupté,
Et de plaisirs noirs et mornes
Remplit l'âme au delà de sa capacité.

Tout cela ne vaut pas le poison qui
découle
De tes yeux, de tes yeux verts,
Lacs où mon âme tremble et se voit à
l'envers...

Mes songes viennent en foule
Pour se désaltérer à ces gouffres amers.

Tout cela ne vaut pas le terrible prodige
De ta salive qui mord,
Qui plonge dans l'oubli mon âme sans
remords,
Et charriant le vertige,
La roule défaillante aux rives de la mort!

Spleen and ideal - 45. Poison

Wine knows how to adorn the most sordid hovel
With marvelous luxury
And make more than one fabulous portal appear
In the gold of its red mist
Like a sun setting in a cloudy sky.

Opium magnifies that which is limitless,
Lengthens the unlimited,
Makes time deeper, hollows out voluptuousness,
And with dark, gloomy pleasures
Fills the soul beyond its capacity.

All that is not equal to the poison which flows
From your eyes, from your green eyes,
Lakes where my soul trembles and sees its evil
side...
My dreams come in multitude
To slake their thirst in those bitter gulfs.

All that is not equal to the awful wonder
Of your biting saliva,
Charged with madness, that plunges my
remorseless soul
Into oblivion
And rolls it in a swoon to the shores of death!

Charles Baudelaire, Les Fleurs du mal, 1857

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Appendix G: Absinthe in Literature

Absinthia Taetra

Green changed to white, emerald to opal;
nothing was changed.

The man let the water trickle gently
into his glass, and as the green clouded,
a mist fell from his mind.

Then he drank opaline.

Memories and terrors beset him. The
past tore after him like a panther and
through the blackness of the present he
saw the luminous tiger eyes of the things
to be.

But he drank opaline.

And that obscure night of the soul,
and the valley of humiliation, through
which he stumbled, were forgotten. He
saw blue vistas of undiscovered
countries, high prospects and a quiet,
caressing sea. The past shed its perfume
over him, to-day held his hand as if it
were a little child, and to-morrow shone
like a white star: nothing was changed.

He drank opaline.

The man had known the
obscure night of the soul, and
lay even now in the valley of
humiliation; and the tiger
menace of the things to be was
red in the skies. But for a little
while he had forgotten.

Green changed to white,
emerald to opal: nothing was
changed.

Ernest Dowson, 1897

Comédie de la Soif - III LES AMIS

Viens, les Vins vont aux plages,
Et les flots par millions!
Vois le Bitter sauvage
Rouler du haut des monts!

Gagnons, pèlerins sages,
L'Absinthe aux verts piliers...

MOI: Plus ces paysages.
Qu'est l'ivresse, Amis?

J'aime autant, mieux, même,
Pourrir dans l'étang,
Sous l'affreuse crème.
Près des bois flottants.

Comedy of Thirst - III THE FRIENDS

Come, the Wines go to the beaches,
And the waves by the millions!
See the wild Bitter
Rolling from the top of the mountains!

Let us, wise pilgrims, reach
The Absinthe with the green pillars...

MYSELF: No more of these landscapes
What is drunkenness, Friends?

I'd just as soon, sooner even,
Rot in the pond
Beneath the greasy cream
Beside floating logs.

Arthur Rimbaud, 1872

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Appendix G: Absinthe in Literature

Absinthe: The Green Goddess

What is there in absinthe that makes it a
separate cult? The effects of its abuse
are totally distinct from those of other
stimulants. Even in ruin and in
degradation it remains a thing apart: its
victims wear a ghastly aureole all their
own, and in their peculiar hell yet gloat
with a sinister perversion of pride that
they are not as other men.

But we are not to reckon up the uses of a
thing by contemplating the wreckage
of its abuse. We do not curse the sea
because of occasional disasters to our
marines, or refuse axes to our woodsmen
because we sympathize with Charles the
First or Louis the Sixteenth. So therefore as
special vices and dangers pertinent to
absinthe, so also do graces and virtues that
adorn no other liquor...

...It is as if the first diviner of absinthe had
been indeed a magician intent upon a
combination of sacred drugs which should
cleanse, fortify and perfume the
human soul.

Aleister Crowley, 1918

For Whom the Bell Tolls

It was a milky yellow now with the water
and he hoped the gypsy would not take
more than a swallow. One cap of it took
the place of the evening papers, of all the
old evenings in cafés, of all chestnut trees
that would be in bloom now in this
month, of the great slow horses of the
outer boulevards, of book shops, of
kiosks, and of galleries, of the Parc
Montsouris, of the Stade Buffalo, and of
the Butte Chaumont, of the Guaranty
Trust Company and the Ile de la Cite, of
Foyot's old hotel, and of being able to
read and relax in the evening; of all the
things he had enjoyed and forgotten and
that came back to him when he tasted
that opaque, bitter, tongue-numbing,
brain-warming, stomach-warming, idea
changing liquid alchemy.

Ernest Hemingway, 1940

After the first glass [of Absinthe], you
see things as you wish they were.
After the second, you see things as
they are not.
Finally you see things as they really
are, and that is the most horrible
thing in the world.

Oscar Wilde

Personality must be accepted for what
it is. You mustn't mind that a poet is
a drunk, rather that drunks are not
always poets.

Oscar Wilde

Absinthe has a wonderful color, green.
A glass of absinthe is as poetical as
anything in the world. What difference
is there between a glass of absinthe
and a sunset?

Oscar Wilde

For me, my glory is but an
"humble ephemeral absinthe"
drunk on the sly, with fear of treason
and if I drink it no longer,
it is for a good reason.

Paul Verlaine

I sit at my door, smoking a cigarette
and sipping my absinthe, and I enjoy
every day without a care in the world.

Paul Gauguin, 1897

Got tight last night on absinthe and
did knife tricks. Great success
shooting the knife underhand into the
piano. The woodworms are so bad
and eat hell out of all the furniture
that you can always claim the
woodworms did it.

Ernest Hemingway

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Appendix C: Absinthe in Literature

Adversus Absynthium (À l'encontre de l'absinthe)

à Alfred Tattet

Absynthe, monstre né jadis pour notre perte
De l'Afrique à Paris traînant ta robe verte
Comment donc as-tu pu sous le soleil oser
Souiller ses lèvres d'or de ton âcre baiser
Vile prostituée en tes temples assise
Tu te vends à l'esprit ainsi qu'à la sottise
Et ne fais nul souci aux adieux, laurier
Qui couvre le Poète ainsi que le guerrier
Hélas ! n'avait-il pas assez de l'amertume
À laquelle en vivant tout grand cœur
s'accoutume
Aussi que l'eau du ciel (illegible)
Qu'il ne reste plus rien de ton amer poison
O monstre sois maudit, je te jette à la face
Les imprécations de Tibulle et d'Horace
Et contre toi j'évoque en mon sein irrité
La langue que parlait la belle antiquité.

Adversus Absynthium (Against absinthe)

to Alfred Tattet

Absynthe, monster once born for our loss
From Africa to Paris dragging your green
dress
How could you dare under the sun
Defile her golden lips with your bitter kiss
Vile prostitute in your temples sitting
You sell yourself to the mind as well as to
foolishness
And don't worry about farewell, laurel
Which covers the poet as well as the warrior
Alas! didn't he have enough bitterness
To which living with a great heart gets used
to
As water from the sky (illegible)
That there's nothing left of your bitter poison
O monster be cursed, I'll throw you on your
face
The imprecations of Tibullus and Horace
And against you I evoke in my irritated
bosom
The language spoken by beautiful antiquity.

Antoni Deschamps, 1847

Wormwood: A Drama of Paris

Absintheur, pur et simple! - voila tout! I am
a thing more abject than the lowest beggar
that crawls through Paris whining for a
sou! - I am a slinking, shuffling beast, half
monkey, half man, whose aspect is so vile,
whose body is so shaken with delirium,
whose eyes are so murderous, that if you
met me by chance in the day-time, you
would probably shriek for sheer alarm! But
you will not see me thus - daylight and I
are not friends. I have become like a bat or
an owl in my hatred of the sun! - ...At
night I live; at night I creep out with the
other obscene things of Paris, and by my
very presence, add fresh pollution to the
moral poisons in the air! I gain pence by
the meanest errands, - I help others to vice,
- and whenever I have the opportunity, I
draw down weak youths, Mothers'
darlings, to the brink of ruin, and topple
them over - if I can! [...] For twenty francs,
I will murder or steal, - all true absintheurs
are purchasable! For they are the
degradation of Paris, - the canker of the
city - the slaves of mean insatiable
madness which nothing but death can cure.

Marie Corelli, 1890

Even when made less offensive by a trickle
of sugar, absinthe still reeks of copper,
leaving on the palate a taste like a metal
button slowly sucked.

Joris-Karl Huysmans

Absinthe! How horrible it is to think of
those days, and of more recent days which
are still too near for my dignity and
health...A single draught of the vile
sorceress (what fool exalted it into a fairy
or green Muse?): one draught was still
amusing, but then my drinking was
followed by more dramatic consequences.
...this drink, this abuse itself, the source of
folly and crime, of idiocy and shame which
governments should tax heavily if they do
not suppress it altogether: absinthe!

Paul Verlaine

If absinthe isn't banned, our country will
rapidly become an immense padded cell
where half the Frenchmen will be occupied
putting straightjackets on the other half.

Georges Ohnet

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Appendix D: Further Reading

Adams, Jad. *Hideous Absinthe: A History of the Devil in a Bottle* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2004)

Baker, Phil. *The Book of Absinthe: A Cultural History* (Grove Press, 2003)

Conrad III, Barnaby. *Absinthe: History in a Bottle* (Chronicle Books, 1988)

Delahaye, Marie-Claude. *L'Absinthe: Histoire de la Fée Verte* (Berger-Levrault, 1983)

Delahaye, Marie-Claude. *Pernod: The Creator of Absinthe, Artemisia Collection Special Edition* (Musée de L'Absinthe Auvers-sur-Oise Édition, 2010)

Lanier, Doris. *Absinthe: The Cocaine of the Nineteenth Century* (McFarland Publishing, 1995)

Owens, Paul/Nathan, Paul. *The Little Green Book of Absinthe: An Essential Companion with Lore, Trivia, and Classic and Contemporary Cocktails* (Perigee Books, 2010)

Wittels, Betina J./Breaux, T.A. *Absinthe: The Exquisite Elixir* (Fulcrum Publishing, 2017)

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Appendix E: Online Resources

YouTube Links (as of January 2021)

- Beer, Wine and Spirits. (Dec. 11, 2018) "*How Absinthe is Made*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=889B0mVldxE>
- BrainStuff - How Stuff Works. (Sep. 16, 2014) "*Can Absinthe Make You Hallucinate?*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGTPnEc2xu4>
- Distiller. (Aug. 14, 2020) "*What is Absinthe? | Everything You Need to Know*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1X4EisejX4w>
- Flaviar. (March 30, 2020) "*A Brief History of Absinthe*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xwjRP8RYZ8>
- Food, People, Places. (Nov. 15, 2018) "*The Absinthe Story: How the green fairy was hidden for 100 years*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZplZvkCsQ7o>
- How It's Made. (May 2, 2015) "*How It's Made: Absinthe*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LopaFrc3CX8>
- How to Drink. (Nov. 15, 2019) "*Absinthe Explained: Myths, Facts, History & Tasting*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Devj97Aum4>
- Journeyman Pictures. (Aug. 22, 2007) "*Absinthe - France*"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb_15B17DVQ
- The Modern Rogue. (Nov. 23, 2018) "*Understanding Absinthe*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqjhzl8bj6U>
- Munchies. (Feb. 20, 2015) "*Chasing the Green Fairy on the French-Swiss Absinthe Route*"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmQv1FSmVQ>

Websites

- Absinthes.com - The Absinthe Encyclopedia
<https://www.absinthes.com/absinthe-encyclopedia/>
- Alandia
<https://www.alandia.de>
- Le Musée Virtuel de l'Absinthe (en français)
<http://www.museeabsinthe.com>
- Science Direct
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/absinthe>
- Wikipedia
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absinthe>
- Wormwood Society
<http://wormwoodsociety.org>