Christmas Cocktails

Discovery Punch

Small handful of frozen blueberries, juice of one orange, 150 ml pomegranate or cranberry juice. Chill serving glass before you start. Place a small handful of frozen blueberries and ice cubes in a chilled shaker. Mix the orange juice with the pomegranate or cranberry juice, and gently shake. Strain into the chilled glass and garnish with one or more blueberries on a cocktail stick and add a thin half slice of lemon to the glass. (*Alternative* add one measure of vodka or gin and replace juice of orange with one measure of Cointreau).

Orangatang

Mix fresh orange juice with cranberry juice. Add slice of orange to decorate.

Laisy Daisy

Freshly squeezed lemon juice, equal parts of lemonade and soda water and plenty of ice. Serve with slices of lemon.

Apple scrummy

In advance prepare cinnamon syrup. In a pan, add 4 cinnamon sticks to 475ml of water and bring to boil. Simmer for 10 minutes and remove cinnamon sticks. Bring water back to boil, add 300g sugar, and stir until dissolved. Cool before using.

Chop one apple and one lemon into small cubes, put into ice-cube trays and fill with water, and freeze. (Kids love these fruit cubes in their drinks too).

To create the cocktail, mix equal parts of apple juice with ginger beer, and 2tbsp of cinnamon syrup, and serve with the fruit cubes.

Juice on the Loose

Blend together orange juice and cranberry juice with a small splash of grapefruit juice (or pineapple juice if you have a sweet tooth) and add a dash of grenadine. Add ice and decorate with orange slices.

Virgin Mary

Blend together 120ml of tomato juice, a dash of fresh lemon juice, add a dash of Worcestershire sauce and two drops of Tabasco sauce. Strain into a tall glass over a good helping of ice cubes.

Mulled Apple & Honey

450ml unsweetened apple juice,150ml water, 10ml (2 tsp) honey, 2 cinnamon sticks, broken in half 6 cloves, 3 strips lemon peel. Put the apple juice into a saucepan with the water, honey, broken cinnamon sticks, cloves and lemon peel; simmer very gently for 4 minutes. (Note: do not break the cinnamon sticks over the pan as little bits will break off and do not taste nice). Remove the broken cinnamon sticks and pour liquid into heat-proof glasses. Spike each drink with a whole cinnamon stick and serve**.**

Mermaid's Song

4 parts orange juice, 2 parts passion fruit juice, 2 parts coconut milk, 2 parts pineapple juice, 1 part fresh lime juice, mix and serve on ice.

Fruit Cup

2 parts apple juice, 2 parts grapefruit juice, 2 parts orange juice, 2 parts pineapple juice, stirred into jug.

Serve with thin slices of apple, lemon, kiwi fruit and orange, and fruit cubes (see Apple Scrummy recipe).

Sea Breeze

3 parts cranberry juice, 3 parts white grapefruit juice. Stir and pour into tall glass filled with ice. (*Alternative* Add single measure of vodka).

Flushed cheeks

Freshly squeezed pomegranate juice, tbsp blackcurrant cordial, tbsp of freshly squeezed lime, shake and strain over ice in a martini glass. Serve with a twist of orange. (*Alternative* Add single measure of blackcurrant vodka).

Fifty Shades of Red

First freeze 50g-100g of cranberries in ice cube trays. Mix 1 part cranberry juice with 5 parts blood orange juice and juice of 1 lime. Put frozen cranberries into a high glass. Half fill the class with the mixed fruit juices. Top up with sparkling apple juice. Serve with a sprig of mint and twist of orange.

Have a wonderful Christmas. If you have your own Christmas cocktail to share, I'd love to hear from you.

Sherry