



# ***HISTORY OF THE COCKTAIL***



On January 16th 1920 the United States Legislature made the 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The National Prohibition Act was put into effect. This made the manufacture, sale, and transport of any intoxicating liquors illegal. This act by Congress opened the United States up to an explosion of illegal activity. People still wanted to consume alcohol and making it illegal only made the product all the more desirable. People consumed alcohol in speakeasies and private parties. The Roaring Twenties were filled with flappers, gangsters, parties, fun, and booze. The idea of a gangster became a big part of this prohibition era. The gangsters were big on bootlegging and the production of moonshine. The business of alcohol went well with their other illegal activities primarily gambling and prostitution. Al Capone was the biggest, most notorious crime boss in the 1920's.



With Prohibition in place people began manufacturing their own moonshine. However, they were ill prepared for such a task, especially since they had to go underground to work. A large majority of the moonshine produced tasted horrible. It was during this time that the "cocktail" was born. People would add different flavors and juices to their moonshine in order to hide the bad taste. The result was a delicious drink and the popularity of cocktails flourished. Recipes for different cocktails were passed around the speakeasies and private parties. Some of the cocktail recipes invented during the time of Prohibition are still enjoyed today, such as the Bacardi Cocktail, Sidecar, and Whisky Old-Fashion.

