

WINE ENTHUSIAST

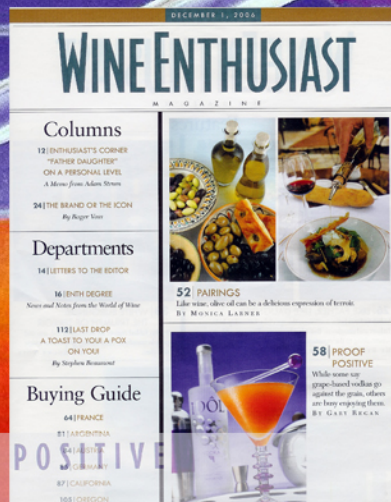
Vodka from the Vineyard

While some say grape-based vodkas go against the grain, others are busy enjoying them.

BY GARY REGAN PHOTOS BY JON VAN GORDER

If the base ingredient for vodka

For instance, Sean Bigley, a bar manager at Bellagio in Las Vegas, likes to use Idôl vodka when he's creating new drinks. Idôl is made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes grown in the Burgundy region of France. It has a very delicate palate, and a surprisingly long finish for a vodka, making it a perfect vehicle for Bigley's Golden Idôl cocktail, a mixture of vodka, amaretto, crème de cassis and fresh lemon juice. Sounds like a sure bet to me—and that's something that can be hard to find in a place like Vegas.



GOLDEN IDÔL

Adapted from a recipe by Sean Bigley, bar manager at the Bellagio, Las Vegas.

- 1¼ ounces Idôl vodka
- ½ ounce Marie Brizard amaretto
- ¼ ounce Marie Brizard crème de cassis
- 2 ounces apricot nectar
- ½ ounce fresh lemon juice
- ¼ ounce simple syrup (equal parts granulated sugar and water, mixed until sugar is dissolved)

Fill a cocktail shaker two-thirds full of ice and add all of the ingredients. Shake for approximately 15 seconds, and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

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