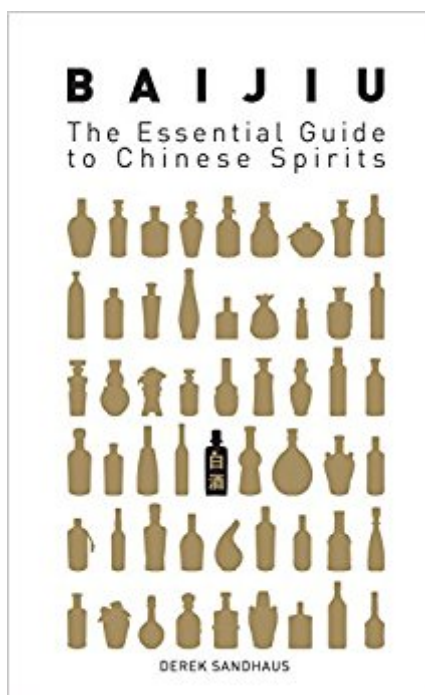


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Baijiu: The Essential Guide To Chinese Spirits



Synopsis

Baijiu, China's national drink, is the world's most consumed alcohol – discover the final frontier of great world alcohols in this comprehensive and practical guide. Drawing on interviews with baijiu aficionados, distillers, and key players in the alcoholic beverage industry, Sandhaus introduces the history and development of alcohol in China – the birthplace of grain-based alcohol. Distillation and production processes, the landscape of the industry today, and a page-by-page guide to the major varieties, distilleries and brands all feature in *Baijiu: The Essential Guide to Chinese Spirits*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Derek Sandhaus spent years sipping and savoring baijiu on the Mainland during his years as a China-based writer and editor. In his journey to "spiritual" enlightenment, he also published *Tales of Old Peking* and *Tales of Old Hong Kong* and edited *Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse*. He maintains the blog, *300 Shots at Greatness* and runs a baijiu consultancy.

Few people outside of China know what Baijiu is. Literally translated, it means white liquor. A distilled product, it has been called Chinese vodka but is actually much more complex and varied than vodka. Baijiu accounts for over a third of the liquor consumed around the world every year. Over 10,000 manufacturers concoct and distill Baijiu in earthenware jars or pits, sometimes from

century-old recipes with mixtures of bacteria and yeast. Made from a variety of grains from sorghum, barley, wheat, and rice, the taste of baijiu range from delicate floral scented gin-like drinks to harsh and fiery alcoholic drinks used to warm farmers and soldiers in the cold. This book is the best guide to the main types of baijiu in China, describing many brands, how they are made, and what they are famous for. The catalog is remarkably extensive and detailed. More than an introduction to the subject, this book is worthwhile buying if you plan to explore baijiu or are seeking to widened your experience with baijiu.

A good introduction to the complexities of baijiu production. I came away from reading this small book appreciating the efforts made to manufacture the product, and there's a good catalogue of baijiu brands described. I would have appreciated more technical info both in terms of manufacture and product quality, but nonetheless a good, digestible intro to this fascinating product and the culture around it.

The best (and also only...) English language book on the topic. Clear writing and a helpful guide to the important brands/products, I would have loved for longer looks at some of the distilleries but there is already a lot of information packed into a short book.

excellent source

An excellent book about baijiu !

Baijiu is intimidating and most visitors to China end up having a pretty negative impression of it after one-too-many hangovers from drunken banquets. This book offers a look into the history and techniques involved in Baijiu production as well as some style descriptions and recommendations to help the reader gain more of an appreciation for the spirit.

This is a great primer for anyone interested in the world's most popular, yet least known spirit. Covering everything from production to its historical origins, it's really well laid-out and readable. Plus the author has included a ton of info about individual baijiu brands, complete with backstory and interesting tidbits.

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