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It's a One-Two-Three Punch for Fun Summertime Drinks!

By Susie Iventosch

There's nothing quite like a refreshing gin and tonic for a hot summer evening and this rendition was inspired by the Spanish Gin and Tonic at The Cooperage in Lafayette. My daughter ordered this drink one evening, and not only was it very pretty, but also so refreshing, made with grapefruit, juniper berries and a sprig of fresh rosemary. We added a wedge of lime, but did not include the pretty little flowers they have floating in their cocktail!

One day a few weeks ago, I had an unquenchable thirst after working around the yard, and discovered a bottle of root beer in the refrigerator. I almost never drink sodas, but this one was calling my name ... loudly! It was so delicious that we decided to go ahead and make root beer floats that evening for dessert. We added a little splash of Bailey's Irish Cream and used pecan caramel crunch frozen yogurt along with a smattering of candied nuts sprinkled over the top. This is a delicious dessert for a hot summer night!

Now, if you are in the mountains, or if the fog should roll in, then the apropos drink would be something hot ... like a good old San Francisco Irish Coffee. Since I really don't enjoy the taste of Irish whiskey, we made our campfire coffees with a smattering of liqueurs so everyone could pick exactly what they wanted! Some like the traditional Irish whiskey or Amaretto, or even Kahlua, but my favorite is a combination of Bailey's and Kahlua! Use Bailey's Coffee Creamer for the younger crowd ... it has no alcohol!

Any of these drinks can be made without alcohol and the coffee drinks are also good with a scoop of coffee chocolate-chip frozen yogurt in place of the float of heavy cream.

We recently received the results from the Moraga Peach Recipe Contest, and the recipes look terrific. Look for those recipes in our next issue!

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[back](#)

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