

Esquire

14 Best Frozen Cocktail Recipes

Summer's not over yet. These refreshing drinks will enhance any beach day or poolside hangout.

By Brad Japhe

In its most acclaimed song, *Frozen* – the 2013 Disney animated classic – advises us all to “let it go.” But when it comes to a frozen cocktail, that’s something we’re never willing to do. Especially not during the dog days of summer. In fact, a recent independent survey by Paragon Brands showed that a third of drinkers prefer slushed serves over traditional pours during this time of year. And the format is becoming increasingly popular with Gen Z drinkers.

Refreshment factor is a given; crushed ice cools you down quick and allows otherwise stiff spirits to go down easy. It also often does so with pizzazz. “You drink frozen cocktails because deep down you want alcohol to hug you, not punch you in the throat, like drinking whiskey or vodka neat does,” says drinks author Dan Dunn.

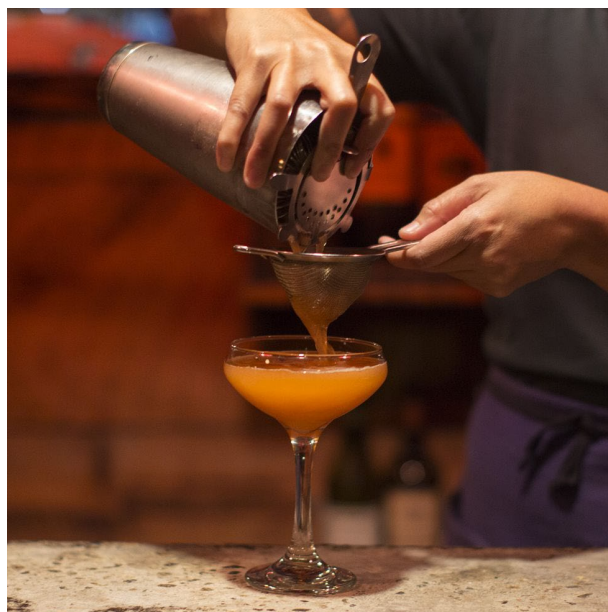
If you’re making something at home, you also want a buzz that doesn’t require an advanced degree in mixology. Or chemistry, for that matter. It turns out that making a masterful frozen drink at home is a cinch. You don’t have to take our word for it either. Dunn, who hosts a popular podcast called *What We’re Drinking*, just devoted an entire episode to the endeavor. (I was his esteemed guest.)

I also talked to a handful of folks who make cocktails for a living, and they didn’t just agree with the assertion. They provided a bevy of recipes you can easily craft in your own kitchen. The closest thing you’ll need by way of lab equipment is a high-tech blender and a Costco-size bag of ice.

Slushy Paper Plane

Thought a Paper Plane wouldn’t work as a slushy delight? Think again.

The Paper Plane is a modern spin on the Last Word. Though it was initially conceived less than 20 years ago, it has already become a classic, appearing on menus across the globe. It’s bittersweet, sophisticated, and unapologetically sturdy. When slushed up, it’s at once hefty and restorative. “The slushy Paper Plane is how I fight back when the world feels like a convection oven,” says Dunn. “It isn’t a poolside cocktail. It’s a ‘get your shit together’ cocktail, served frozen.”



Ingredients

- 3/4 cup high-proof bourbon
- 3/4 cup Amaro Nonino
- 3/4 cup Aperol
- 3/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup ice

Directions

Combine all ingredients into a blender and run for 45 seconds or until consistently pureed. Stir thoroughly before pouring into a tall coupe glass.