



Mead and other honey drinks

There are many varieties of Mead and usually three classes in show - sweet mead, dry mead and other honey drinks (such as Metheglin, Melomel, Cyser).

There are many published recipes available for mead, but often 'makers' have their own tweaked favourites and tricks of the trade learnt from successful (and lots of unsuccessful!) experimentation.

For some classic mead recipes visit the TTVBKA website - [Mead recipes etc July06.pdf](#)

Some types of mead include:

- Basic Mead (dry or sweet) – honey, water and yeast
- Melomel – with fruit juice or flowers
- Pyment – with red or white grapes
- Hippocras – with grape juice & herbs
- Cyser – with apple juice or cider
- Metheglin – basic mead flavoured or fermented with spices
- Hydromel – a French term for mead or a watered-down mead

Preparing for show

- Select a bright and clear mead and bottle it at least a week before the show
- Filter your mead to remove sediment and floaters with minimum exposure to air
- Check the show schedule for the correct size and shaped bottle, cork and label
- Thoroughly clean the bottle clean before filling
- Fill to within about 1cm of the cork
- Don't use normal wine corks for a show, always use a cork stopper with a plastic top (easier for the judge to remove and replace)
- Wipe and polish your bottle before exhibiting

What the judge is looking for

- Presented in the correct bottle with the right corks & labels
- A crystal-clear drink with no sediment, impurities or floaters
- A good aroma and bouquet
- A clean, honeyed flavour. Extra ingredients are pleasant and not overwhelming. A good aftertaste

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