



## The First Distillery

*On a recent holiday to Japan, our communications chief was lucky enough to attend a tour of the Suntory Yamazaki whiskey distillery.*

The Yamazaki Distillery, operated by the Suntory company and the first distillery in Japan, is set against the foothills of the Omine Mountain Range about 30km south of Kyoto.

Suntory take considerable pride in the long history of their first facility.

From the original century old still, to the barrels in the cavernous aging warehouse that date back to 1923, the tour of the facility is like stepping back in time.

Every aspect of the facility reflects the meticulous care taken by Suntory and it oozes style and sophistication. The layout of the distillery includes a waterfall and peaceful garden, and a wonderful museum that showcases the 100 years of Suntory's history.

And with the tour, which includes whiskey tasting costing just 1000 yen (about \$11 AUD), there's no excuse not to take in a taste of Japan's fascinating history of distilling, the next time you visit the land of the rising sun.



## 5 Tips For a Better Beard

### 1. Don't shave!

The first 2-3 weeks of growing a beard are the hardest, and the itchiest. Once the hair follicles are given time to grow a bit they no longer irritate the skin. Don't worry if your beard grows patchy, or unevenly. The gaps will fill in and the natural shape of your beard emerges.

### 2. Trim, but don't trim

Don't be overzealous with the trimming. Take off stray hairs, the tips, and keep it out of your mouth. Once you have some length behind your beard; brush it out to make it fuzzy, then gently take off the 'halo' with some hair clippers. Once every 2-3 months will keep it in check and growing healthy.

### 3. Stroke it!

Running your hands through your beard and moustache will train the hairs to go where you want them, and keep it soft and smooth. And it looks cool. Be honest, you grew it to look wise and ponderous when stroking your beard.

### 4. Oils, Balms & Shampoos?

Regular shampoo and conditioner can be too harsh for your luscious man growth. There is a lot of beard products out there specifically tailored for your fatherly follicles. Find one that suits you and use it sparingly. Overuse leads to brittle hair.

### 5. There are no bad beards

Repeat after me: "This is my beard. There are many like it, but this one is mine. My beard is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life..." You get the gist.



## A-Lister Signed to Launch Upcoming Kimberley Rum Co New Release

Introducing 'H to O'

The new limited edition

non-alcoholic vodka from the Kimberley Rum Company.

Zero sugar.

Zero gluten.

Zero calories.

Zero animal testing.

Zero alcohol.

We take raw, mineral heavy delicious ingredients from over 30 underground natural springs sourced across Australia.

Distilled and blended to an old family recipe where each element is extracted, purified and recombined to produce a uniquely balanced experience.

Organically filtered through a century old urn recently discovered aboard the sunken wreck of the Batavia who was shipwrecked on her maiden voyage as a result of mutiny in 1628.

Endorsed by Kevin Costner - enjoyed by you.

When approached, Mr Costner leapt to the concept like a fish out of a water, stating that:

*'when a defining moment comes along, you define the moment, or themoment defines you'.*  
(1996)

The perfect accompaniment for any occasion.

**Especially for April 1st!**







## Warm Banana Split with Canefire sauce

**Makes 2**

### INGREDIENTS

3 tbsp. butter

6 tbsp. brown sugar

4 small just ripe bananas, peeled, cut in half lengthwise

1/4 cup Canefire Rum

1 tsp. vanilla essence

Pinch nutmeg

Vanilla ice cream

Fresh Strawberries

Crushed Nuts

Whipped Cream

### Preparation

Over medium high heat, melt butter.

Add brown sugar.

Cook and stir until brown sugar dissolves.

Add bananas.

Continue to cook until brown sugar mix caramelizes and bananas are tender; about 2 to 3 minutes.

Remove pan from heat and add rum.

Transfer pan back on heat. To flambé, ignite with long match or barbecue lighter.

The alcohol should burn off in a few seconds and the flame will extinguish. (If flame does not extinguish, cover pan with lid.)

Finish sauce with vanilla and pinch nutmeg.

Serve bananas and rum sauce over vanilla ice cream.

Garnish as desired, with strawberries, crushed nuts, whipped cream.



## Fetch the Hammer and Blowtorch

Welcome back to the third installment of our in-depth look at the wonderful world of amateur Cooperage.

In previous articles we looked at repairing splits, cracks and soaking.

So fetch your hammer and blow torch because this issue we're talking about loose bands and waxing.

A slipped band is easy to repair.

First make sure your barrel is hydrated, otherwise it could easily split or crack.

Take a cold chisel and give it a few taps towards the middle of the barrel.

Work your way gently around the circumference, tapping the bands back in place one small blow at a time until it's nice and tight. Remember to rehydrate the barrel again to ensure the leaking has stopped.

If you're not confident hammering picks into your baby there is another simpler less intrusive approach; it requires a blowtorch and some paraffin wax.

A handheld disposable propane cylinder blow torch can be sourced from any hardware store and paraffin wax can be

purchased by the kilogram from most soap/candle craft stores.

With hot soapy water gently clean away the stains around the leak.

Break off a chunk of wax and rub it across the troubled area like you're waxing a surfboard; the coarse grain of the oak will pick up the wax. Sweep the blowtorch across the wax to melt it into the grooves (and leaks), careful not to scald the wood. Repeat the process several times for a consistent effect. For those extra hard to reach places melt some wax in an old pot and paint it on. Rehydrate and check to make sure those leaks are plugged!

Try to aim for a 3 to 6 cm radius around the suspect area for good coverage but resist the temptation to cover the entire barrel. We want your baby to breathe! And waxing will make it not only leak tight but air tight.

**Run into trouble? Speak to John from Margaret River Cooperage.**

**He's our professional:**

[margaretrivercooperage.com.au](http://margaretrivercooperage.com.au)



succinctly  
insightful  
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**Robert Burr**  
[RumMinute.com](http://RumMinute.com)



We've had a massive response from our Letters to the Editor section and will continue to answer your enquiries as they come in!

Please direct your letters to  
496 Great Northern Highway,  
Middle Swan WA 6056  
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