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Gosling's give lessons in island's national drink

Helen Jardine

Gosling's has branched out from selling rum to teaching about it.

The firm has launched tasting courses about our beloved national drink - and they are proving to be a huge hit with both locals and tourists.

The 'Rum 101' classes reveal everything you ever wanted to know about the popular beverage.

They reveal the history behind Bermuda's famous Dark and Stormy cocktail to the distinct tastes and aromas that make up 20-year-old Black Seal rum.

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Andrew Holmes, Gosling's Brand Director, gives the complementary talks at various locations around the island.

He said: "I think a lot of people who enjoy rum do not know where it comes from or the process in which it is made.

"Exploring this gives them a better appreciation for the spirit.

"Tasting the different styles of rum back to back allows the consumer to discover the uniqueness of each style and therefore determine which rum better suits their palette and taste buds."

Tasters begin with a delicious Bermuda Gold Loquat Liqueur, followed by the Gosling's Gold Bermuda Rum with a splash of water.

Then it's on to Gosling's Black Seal Bermuda Rum with a splash of Gosling's Stormy Ginger Beer.

Finally, guests enjoy a taste of the Gosling's Family Reserve Old Rum, straight up.

Mr. Holmes said: "Each time we do the Rum 101 we taste all of those products.

"Sometimes when we do a big hotel group we include some food such as fish chowder and other local delicacies made with the flagship Gosling's Black Seal rum.

"One thing people will learn is that Gosling's began importing rum almost 200 years ago.

"We created a style of rum that is unique to Bermuda, which we now refer to as Black Seal rum, the number one selling spirit in Bermuda.

"All of Gosling's rum is blended and bottled here in Bermuda by a small team of Bermudians."

Gosling's rum is also the largest export off of the island.

The firm ships all over North America, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Czech Republic, Japan and the British Virgin Islands.

They have also just sent their first shipment all the way to China.

Last month, Gosling's launched a new product - Stormy Ginger Beer.

The drinks firm say mixing it with Black Seal rum creates the perfect Dark and Stormy cocktail.

It is available in 12-ounce cans to begin with but they may expand to bottles in the future.

Rum 101 is free and held weekly. Attend on Mondays at the Frog & Onion Atrium in Dockyard from 6pm till 8pm, Tuesdays at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess, usually on the lawn under the Poinciana Tree from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, and on Wednesday at the Elbow Beach Hotel in the lounge from 6pm to 7:30pm.



Cheers: Gosling's Brand Director Andrew Holmes, second left, discusses the history of rum.