

Ice Cream Floats

for Grown-Ups

Shop You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear, nor can you make a great float with mediocre ice cream. Grab a pint from your local ice cream parlor or use an artisanal brand of gelato, like Ciao Bella or Talenti.

Gear Your basic kitchen gear plus a soda fountain glass or highball glass and a long straw

What else Despite its simplicity, the sequence for assembling an ice cream float makes a difference. For more foam, add the ice cream first, then the soda. For less foam, add the soda first, then drop in a scoop of ice cream.

Time About 5 minutes

"Too much of anything is bad," observed Mark Twain (a guy's writer if ever there was one). "But too much good whiskey is barely enough." I suspect Twain wasn't thinking of ice cream floats, but the right booze can turn this soda fountain classic into a dessert suitable for a grown man. Serves 1; can be multiplied as desired

Rum and Coke Float

The Cuba libre (rum and Coke) is a classic summer thirst quencher. It just got a lot more refreshing served as an ice cream float.

1 scoop vanilla ice cream

1 ounce (2 tablespoons) light rum

8 ounces (1 cup) Coca-Cola

Place the ice cream in a tall glass. Pour the rum over it, followed by the Coca-Cola. Insert a long straw and stir a couple of times. Bottoms up.

Dark and Stormy Float

Fired up on ginger? Try this dessert twist on a cocktail popular with the Newport, Rhode Island, yacht set. You'll find the cocktail itself on page 588.

1 scoop ginger or vanilla ice cream
1 ounce (2 tablespoons) dark rum
8 ounces (1 cup) ginger beer (see Note)

Place the ice cream in a tall glass. Pour the rum over it, followed by the ginger beer. Insert a long straw and stir a couple of times.

Note: Ginger beer is spicier and not as sweet as regular ginger ale. Good brands include Barritt's Bermuda Stone and Maine Root Ginger Brew.

Cherry Lambic Float

You beer aficionados out there surely know Belgium's *kriek lambic* (cherry beer) or one of its North American counterparts. But I'd be willing to bet you've never added any of them to a cherry float.

1 scoop Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia ice cream or vanilla ice cream
1/2 ounce (1 tablespoon) maraschino liqueur (optional)
8 ounces (1 cup) kriek lambic
1 maraschino cherry (optional)

Place the ice cream in a tall glass. Pour the maraschino liqueur over it, if using, followed by the *kriek lambic*. Top the float with the cherry, if desired. Insert a long straw and stir a couple of times.

Bourbon Brown Cow

If whiskey is your booze of choice, try this brown cow made with root beer, vanilla ice cream, and bourbon. Or make it with a rye whiskey, like Old Overholt.

1 scoop vanilla ice cream
1 ounce (2 tablespoons) bourbon
8 ounces (1 cup) root beer

Place the ice cream in a tall glass. Pour the bourbon over it, followed by the root beer. Insert a long straw and stir a couple of times.