

## 10 great places to raise a glass to Repeal Day

Dec. 5 should be marked on any drinker's calendar: It's the day in 1933 that the 21st Amendment was ratified, ending Prohibition. And what better excuse

for sampling vintage drinks? asks **David Wondrich**, a James Beard Award-winning

### Travel

journalist and author of *Punch: The Delights (and Dangers) of the Flowing Bowl* (Perigee, \$23.95). He shares with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY 10 classic cocktail lounges in which to celebrate Repeal Day.



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### The Passenger

Washington

Co-owned by cocktail writer Derek Brown, this busy bar also has an 18-seat, reservation-only area called the Columbia Room. "It's a very comfortable bar, very popular with the locals — a very 'inside D.C.' place to go," Wondrich says. He recommends their Gin Rickey, a refreshing mixture of gin, lime juice and soda, invented by a lobbyist in the 1880s. 202-393-0220; [passengerdc.com](http://passengerdc.com)

### Clover Club

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Although this neighborhood watering hole features a 19th-century bar, Wondrich says, it's neither pretentious nor stuffy. Repeal Day plans include half-price classic drinks. The author suggests the Clover Club Cocktail, an old Philadelphia concoction made from gin, vermouth, lemon juice, raspberry syrup and egg whites. "It's a thing of beauty," he says. 718-855-7939; [cloverclubny.com](http://cloverclubny.com)

### Comstock Saloon

San Francisco

This new bar in a century-old building recalls the wild Barbary Coast red-light district, Wondrich says. The bar's signature drink is the city's famous Pisco Punch, made with South American brandy. Comstock will celebrate Repeal Day with \$5 martinis and Manhattans after midnight Saturday. 415-617-0071; [comstocksaloon.com](http://comstocksaloon.com)

### Eastern Standard

Boston

Though most classic cocktail lounges are small, Eastern Standard is huge, with polished wood and brass, and tile floors. Wondrich likes their Jack Rose, a mix of applejack, lemon juice, house-made grenadine and bitters. "It comes out orangish pink, and it's rich and refreshing at the same time." 617-532-9100; [easternstandardboston.com](http://easternstandardboston.com)

### Cure

New Orleans

In a city famous for celebrating, Cure is constantly dreaming up rogue cocktails. He cites the Gunshop Fizz, which uses 2 ounces of bitters, where many drinks might call for two dashes. "It's pretty wild. You have to have a certain tolerance for strong flavors." The bar, located in the Uptown area, will celebrate Repeal Day with a happy hour and vintage drinks. 504-302-2357; [curenola.com](http://curenola.com)

### Rob Roy

Seattle

Although it resembles a 1950s rec room, Wondrich says the Rob Roy knows its cocktails. "It's really a lovely bar," he says. The staff cuts ice in different-sized chunks to make specific drinks. The cocktail to order, of course, is a Rob Roy. "It's Scotch whisky with sweet vermouth and bitters, stirred not shaken." James Bond, he says, had it all wrong. 206-956-8423; [robroyseattle.com](http://robroyseattle.com)

### Franklin Mortgage & Investment Co.

Philadelphia

The name of one of the city's largest bootlegging operations during Prohibition, Franklin Mortgage & Investment looks like a speakeasy. Located near Rittenhouse Square, it's a dark, clubby place, Wondrich says. It will offer a special cocktail in honor of Repeal Day. 267-467-3277; [thefranklinbar.com](http://thefranklinbar.com)

### Proof on Main

Louisville

Wondrich calls this one of the nation's flagship bars. Its annual Repeal Day party has the staff in period costumes, while customers will find a ready supply of fake moustaches to join in the festivities. The bar has a full selection of obscure bourbons and Kentucky ryes, but you'll also find the delightful Champagne Frappé — sparkling wine served on shaved ice. 502-217-6360; [proofonmain.com](http://proofonmain.com)

### R Bar

Kansas City, Mo.

Located in the West Bottoms warehouse district, this large bar features an innovative restaurant and live music. Wondrich's drink suggestion: the Prescription Julep. "It's made with cognac and rye whiskey in true old-school style." Wondrich should know — the recipe came from one of his books. 816-471-1777; [rbarkc.com](http://rbarkc.com)

### The Drawing Room

Chicago

This Rush Street watering hole feels like a speakeasy, Wondrich says. Guests head downstairs, where they'll find small sitting areas where they can gather with friends. "It's not fancy or froufrou," he says. "They make precision drinks and run a fun little bar there." 312-266-2694; [thedrchingago.com](http://thedrchingago.com)