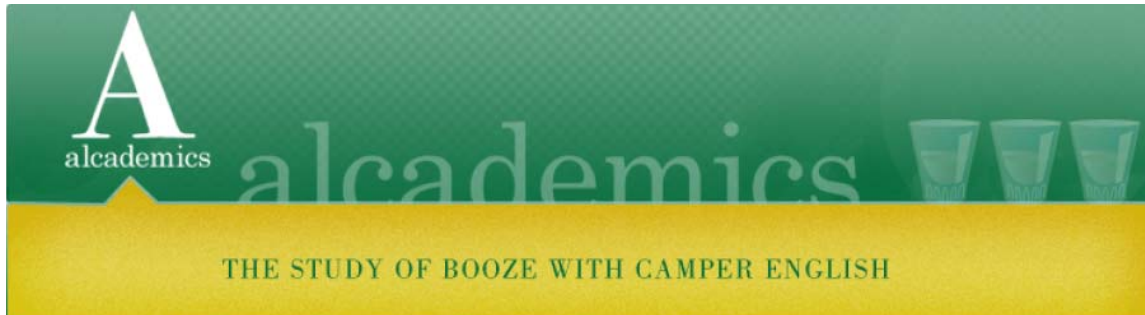


September 25, 2007

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

Repo Man

Phew! I'm finally finishing up some intense weeks of writing assignments. I think I've been in touch with every cachaca brand on the market and crammed more obscure liquor history in my head than should actually fit (so if I forget who you are, it's because that place in my brain is filled with orgeat instead.)

Last night I hit Rye for the mixing competition, where Partida Reposado was the base spirit to use- and they provided free tequila for the crowd too, which was nice. Johnny Raglin of Absinthe took home first place, with Ryan Fitzgerald (Brick, Bourbon & Branch) and Victoria D'Amato (Monaghans) picking up the second and third place prizes.

Natalie, she of **The Liquid Muse**, was in town too in preparation for the **Square One cocktail contest**. H. Ehrmann of Elixir was busy pureeing watermelons and figs all day to make cocktails for the crowd. They said they've sold so many pre-sale tickets there are only 40 available at the door. Dang!

But before all that I'm going to a tasting of the winners of the SF World Spirits Competition earlier this year. Hopefully between the two events I'll find time to hit the gym, as my cocktail gut continues to grow unmitigated.