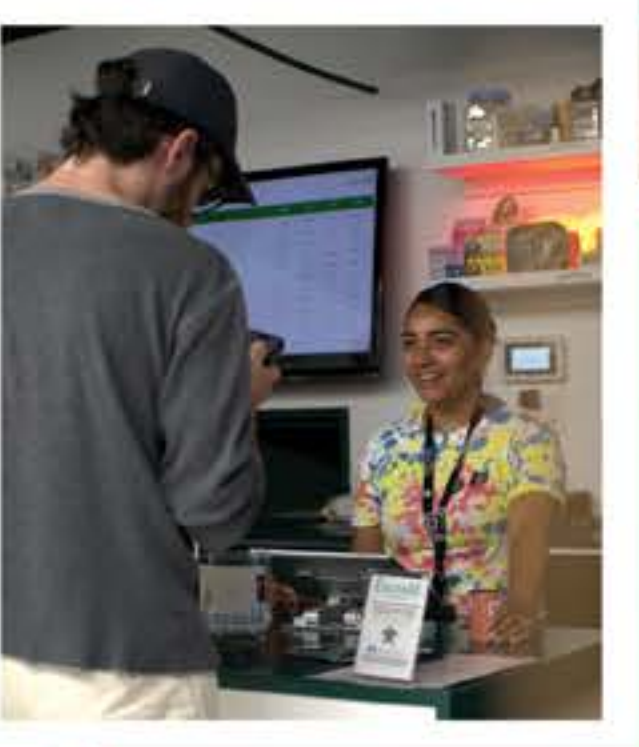


Emerald

CANNABIS LIFESTYLE

The Creative Spirit Issue



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PUBLISHER
CHRISTINA ELIZABETH DE GIOVANNI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MELISSA HUTSELL

COVER SHOT
OLIA DANILEVICH

EDITORIAL DESIGN
VERO AVANT

WRITERS
RITA THOMPSON
TEDDY DUNCAN JR
PHILIPPE MARQUIS
JENNIFER LIPINSKI

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CHRISTINA DE GIOVANNI PUBLISHER

Dear Reader:

Welcome to the first issue of *The Emerald™ Magazine* for 2025!

As we step into the New Year, we are filled with excitement, optimism, and a sense of creative renewal. This issue is all about inspiring cannabis creativity—whether it's in the rituals we embrace, the spaces we inhabit, or the flavors we savor.

As the world of cannabis continues to evolve, it's more important than ever to celebrate the ingenuity and artistry that surround this incredible plant. This issue is our ode to the makers, dreamers, and innovators who are redefining what it means to consume and enjoy cannabis.

To kick off the New Year, we're delving into the long-standing craft of rolling. *The Art of Rolling: Tools, Techniques, and Innovation* goes beyond the basics to celebrate rolling as an art form, a ritual, and even a form of friendly competition. From classic styles to modern innovations, we've gathered insights to help you elevate your rolling game and turn every session into a masterpiece. Whether you're a curious beginner or a seasoned pro, this piece has something for you.

Next, we take you to the heart of New York City's cannabis culture with *Rolling in Creativity: These Creative Cannabis Spaces are Shaping New York's*

Elevated Culture. Discover how the city that never sleeps has always been a trendsetter, even in cannabis culture. From 19th-century hashish parlors to today's vibrant, elevated spaces, we explore how these creative hubs are redefining the way we gather, consume, and connect.

And because nothing pairs better with creativity than comfort, we've got you covered with *Winter Warmers: Infused Drinks to Inspire Creativity*. Winter is the perfect time to cozy up with a hot cup of inspiration. Learn how to craft infused beverages that not only warm you from the inside out but also ignite your creative spark. These recipes are perfect for sipping solo or sharing with friends during your next snow-day session.

This year, we encourage you to find new ways to embrace the creative potential of cannabis, whether that means honing your craft, exploring cultural touchstones, or simply savoring a moment of comfort and inspiration. Here's to making 2025 a year of bold ideas and elevated experiences.

Cheers,
Christina de Giovanni
Publisher

ChristinaDeGiovanni

CHRISTINA@EMERALDMEDIAGROUPINC.COM

The Creative Spirit Issue

The Art of Rolling: Techniques, Tools, and Innovation

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The Art of Rolling: Techniques, Tools, and Innovation

BY JENNIFER LIPINSKI

Rolling a joint or blunt is more than just a skill—it's an art form, a ritual, and sometimes a friendly competition. For seasoned rollers or curious beginners, mastering the craft comes with its own set of tools, techniques, and creative flair. Let's dive into the world of rolling, exploring classic styles and modern innovations to turn the next session into a masterpiece.



T **TOOLS OF THE TRADE** First is the age-old question: blunts or joints? Preference usually comes with experience, but there are some factors that may help determine which to start with. Blunts are basically cannabis cigars. Blunt wraps will include tobacco and offer a thicker sheet to work with. They will also hold more cannabis than a joint.

Others may prefer joints because they are tobacco-free, but they are thinner and more delicate. Joint papers come in many different sizes and textures; 1 ¼ inch papers are standard because they are the easiest to roll and can fit a crutch or filter. Single-wides will be slightly smaller and can also be used for cigarettes. One-and-a-half-inch papers allow for fatter joints, and king size is also popular for providing wider and longer joints than the rest. Most commonly, they are made out of tree pulp but other materials include hemp, rice, bamboo, and flax.

Once a choice is made, it's time to gather supplies. Classic essentials include quality rolling papers/blunt wraps, a reliable grinder, and a flat surface to work on. This can be a table, rolling tray, or even a lap for spontaneous rolling. For the more adventurous, flavored wraps, blunt rollers, and crutches (also known as filters) can elevate the experience. A good stash of quality flower is essential—because that's where the magic begins.



Blunt Basics
Blunts and joints require slightly different rolling techniques, so let's kick things off with how to roll a blunt.

- **First**, the blunt wrap will need to be cut or split down the side. Most prefer to dump out the tobacco, but some may save a little to sprinkle throughout the blunt. Some people like to dampen the wrap slightly to make it easier to handle.
- **Next**, grind the cannabis. The grind's coarseness is a personal preference, but most will prefer a medium grind to prevent it from burning too quickly.
- **After that**, fill it up, ensuring enough room to close the wrap adequately.
- **To close the blunt**, tuck and roll down the length of the wrap, making sure to wet the edge with water or by licking it. Wetness will act as the glue and hold it together.
- **The final step** will be to seal the blunt and let it dry. Most prefer to do this by running the lighter down the seam, allowing for the moisture to dry up which helps hold the seal. Voila! Light up and enjoy.

Rolling isn't just about creating something to smoke—it's about the journey, the care, and the shared joy.



GATHER SUPPLIES. CLASSIC ESSENTIALS INCLUDE QUALITY ROLLING PAPERS/BLUNT WRAPS, A RELIABLE GRINDER, AND A FLAT SURFACE TO WORK ON. THIS CAN BE A TABLE, ROLLING TRAY, OR EVEN A LAP FOR SPONTANEOUS ROLLING. FOR THE MORE ADVENTUROUS, FLAVORED WRAPS, BLUNT ROLLERS, AND CRUTCHES (ALSO KNOWN AS FILTERS) CAN ELEVATE THE EXPERIENCE.



Joint Perfection
Just like rolling a blunt, the first step is to grind the cannabis. With joints, a finer coarseness is needed.

- **Step two** will be to create the crutch or filter. They can be made from filter tips, by ripping off a piece from the rolling paper pack, using a business card, or any thin piece of cardboard about an inch long. To roll the crutch, start with a few accordion folds, then roll it to the preferred thickness. The crutch adds stability to the joint and filters any cannabis from falling out of the end as it's smoked.
- **Next**, fill the joint with cannabis. Place the crutch on the end of the open-rolling paper and fill it with a half-gram to a full gram of weed.
- **Then**, much like the blunt, it is time to roll. Roll the paper back and forth to start to shape the cannabis, then tuck the unglued side into the roll, and roll it up until just the edge is left. Some may opt to roll it into a cone shape, while others prefer to keep it straight. Lick the glued edge to seal it down, starting closest to the crutch to better guide the paper.
- **Once the edge is sealed**, the open end of the joint should have a little room to close. Use a pen or stick to carefully pack it down further. Twist the paper on the end to close it up, and it's ready to go. Enjoy with friends or solo.

CONVENIENCE IS KEY
For those who want an easier option than rolling, there is another way. There are pre-rolled cones that eliminate all of the hard work. Just grind up the cannabis, pack it into the cone, twist the top, and it's done. There are also tools such as rolling machines that will help achieve a perfect roll. This will save time and energy, but learning to roll is a great party trick.

INNOVATIVE TRENDS IN ROLLING
The art of rolling has evolved over the years in creativity and technology. There are papers to suit just about every style. Gold papers add a touch of luxury to a session with edible golf-leaf rolling papers. Cross Joints are intricate creations that combine two joints for a smoky masterpiece. LED Rolling Trays allow for rolling anytime and anywhere by illuminating the workspace, and they are as functional as they are

flashy. Do research or talk to a local budtender to find out about other cool rolling innovations to try.

ROLLING ETIQUETTE: SHARING THE EXPERIENCE
In many cultures, rolling is a communal act. It's polite to roll well if sharing and to let others take the first hit. Bonus points if the finished product doesn't canoe (burn unevenly)—that's a sign of true craftsmanship!

THE FINAL PUFF
Rolling isn't just about creating something to smoke—it's about the journey, the care, and the shared joy. Whether crafting a simple joint or experimenting with something avant-garde, the art of rolling is a skill that keeps on giving. So grab supplies, let the creativity flow, and enjoy the satisfaction of a perfectly rolled masterpiece. ♦♦♦

Rolling in Creativity:

These Creative Cannabis Spaces are Shaping New York's Elevated Culture

BY RITA THOMPSON ♦

The cannabis industry has come a long way over the past decade, with dispensaries now dotting the map like corner stores. And while 420-friendly spaces to gather and consume may seem like a recent trend, they've actually been woven into the cultural fabric—albeit in more clandestine settings—of cities like New York since the 1880s. The city is home to some of the earliest mentions of cannabis lounges in the U.S., dating back to 19th century *Harper's News Monthly* articles about hashish smoking parlors.

FROM ART STUDIOS TO CO-working spaces, today's cannabis-friendly spaces not only promote creativity but play a key role in fostering community—offering a safe and inclusive environment for those often facing criminalization or stigmatization to participate in and enjoy cannabis culture. Let's take a look at four cannabis spaces in New York.

AIART STUDIO

AIArt Studio in East Williamsburg is a cannabis-friendly art space designed for relaxation, self-expression, and community. Founded by proud Latina entrepreneur Sabrina Palacio, the studio offers puff and paint sessions where guests can enjoy a laid-back evening of

painting, music, and consumption. "I wanted to create a space where people could come to relax, create, and have a good time without feeling judged," Palacio shared with *The Emerald*. "It's a cannabis-friendly environment where people can fully unwind and feel safe being themselves." "I knew there wasn't a place like this in our community where creativity and cannabis could come together in a supportive, simply welcoming space, so I decided to create it," Palacio added. "[It's designed] to be a welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable, whether you're here to unwind, explore your creativity, or just have a good time."

The classes cater to all levels, with options for seasoned artists or beginners. Some classes feature pre-traced canvases for a self-guided experience, while others start with

Today's cannabis-friendly spaces not only promote creativity but play a key role in fostering community—offering a safe and inclusive environment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AIART STUDIO



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLLECTIVE HIGH



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLLECTIVE HIGH

a blank canvas and include step-by-step instructions. Guests are encouraged to bring their own drinks and cannabis, with snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and hookah available for purchase.

COLLECTIVE HIGH

Collective High is where high society meets high culture. A private, New York City-based social club focused on reshaping the public perception of cannabis, this exclusive yet inclusive spot offers a curated experience that blends education, socializing, and responsibility.

Attracting a diverse group of members, from free thinkers and philanthropists to partiers,

revolutionaries, and rebels, the space is centered around its exclusive events. These include monthly parties and quarterly salons, held at a private venue in Midtown. Collective High is a laid-back setting for accessing cannabis culture and community-building, or as founder June Johnson described it, a place for "being social, having deep and rich conversations with the community, partying with friends, and living in purpose." "As a Black woman, Johnson said, "I'm keenly aware that we all get to enjoy the plant with greater ease and access because of those who carved out the blueprint for this landscape, who are currently behind bars while



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORK'N'ROLL

the newly legalized landscape thrives (or thrives more than someone sitting in prison). It's an awareness central to the club's core tenet: partying with purpose." "Membership requires philanthropy by either donating an hour each month of your time to pre-vetted initiatives that support cannabis justice (early release, record expungement, and post-release job pairing) or sponsoring another membership for someone who cannot afford to be a member," Johnson explained. Looking ahead to 2025, Collective High will transition into a private consumption lounge, offering flexible co-working hours and extended

event programming. "We're building a space that's as much about community as it is about creating an elevated cannabis experience," Johnson said.

WORK'N'ROLL

Since May 2022, Work'n'Roll has earned its reputation as a hub for brands to engage with their audiences in creative, immersive ways. Tailored specifically for the cannabis industry, the venue offers exclusive consumption-friendly environments where brands and guests can engage on a deeper level, leaving a lasting impression.

"Our mission is to provide a seamless platform for collaboration,



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORK'N'ROLL

THE EMERALD DISPENSARY

Dispensaries, like **The Emerald Dispensary**, are not just retail locations but innovative and visionary spaces. Emerald is a community hub that hosts a variety of events designed to bring locals together. From wellness workshops to cultural gatherings, The Emerald offers a space for education, connection, and fun—aiming to elevate the cannabis experience while fostering inclusivity and conversation.

where brands can showcase their identity through innovative experiences, events, and campaigns," co-founder Julia Deviatkina shared with *The Emerald*.

For cannabis entrepreneurs, Deviatkina said, the space serves as more than just an event venue. "We handle everything—from curating the perfect audience to ensuring a flawlessly executed event," she explained. "Each activation is thoughtfully designed to foster a sense of belonging—to the community, the industry, and the brand—while encouraging meaningful interactions between brands and their audiences." Whether it's a product launch, a private gathering, or an immersive showcase, Work'n'Roll ensures each experience is tailored and impactful. "Every detail is crafted to elevate the experience and make it truly special," Deviatkina added.

KAKES NYC

Kakes NYC is redefining the cannabis lounge experience with

its unique blend of elevated food, cannabis, and entertainment. Co-founded in 2022 by Karol Zapata, a seasoned pastry chef, it started as a pop-up offering infused treats and quickly grew into a sought-after destination. The menu features both infused and non-infused options, with fan favorites like Smack & Cheese, Mama Kakes Empanadas, and signature desserts made in collaboration with celebrities like Bobby Shmurda and Styles P.

The vibe at Kakes is eclectic and welcoming, offering an experience much more than just a smoke lounge or restaurant. "We host comedy shows with some of the most popular names hitting comedy circles, as well as a variety of other events like puff and paint nights, burlesque shows, magicians, high yoga, elevated karaoke nights, game nights, and other showcases," Zapata told *The Emerald*.

"We have hosted celebrities and company functions, industry trade shows, and we play sports games, MMA and boxing events," Zapata

added. "The crowd is so diverse. From date nights to girls' nights, it's a place for every occasion."

The venue is divided into two main areas: the indoor lounge and The Garden at Kakes, a year-round outdoor space with a retractable roof, stage, and state-of-the-art air filtration. Kakes is a membership-based venue. Annual membership grants access to exclusive events, priority seating, and discounts. For those looking for a more casual visit, day passes give access to the venue and its offerings. The space also runs special monthly promotions, including free entry on certain nights.

These creative cannabis spaces in New York are redefining how we experience cannabis, blending community, creativity, and culture. From art to socializing to business, these venues are shaping a more inclusive and dynamic cannabis scene in the city.♦♦♦

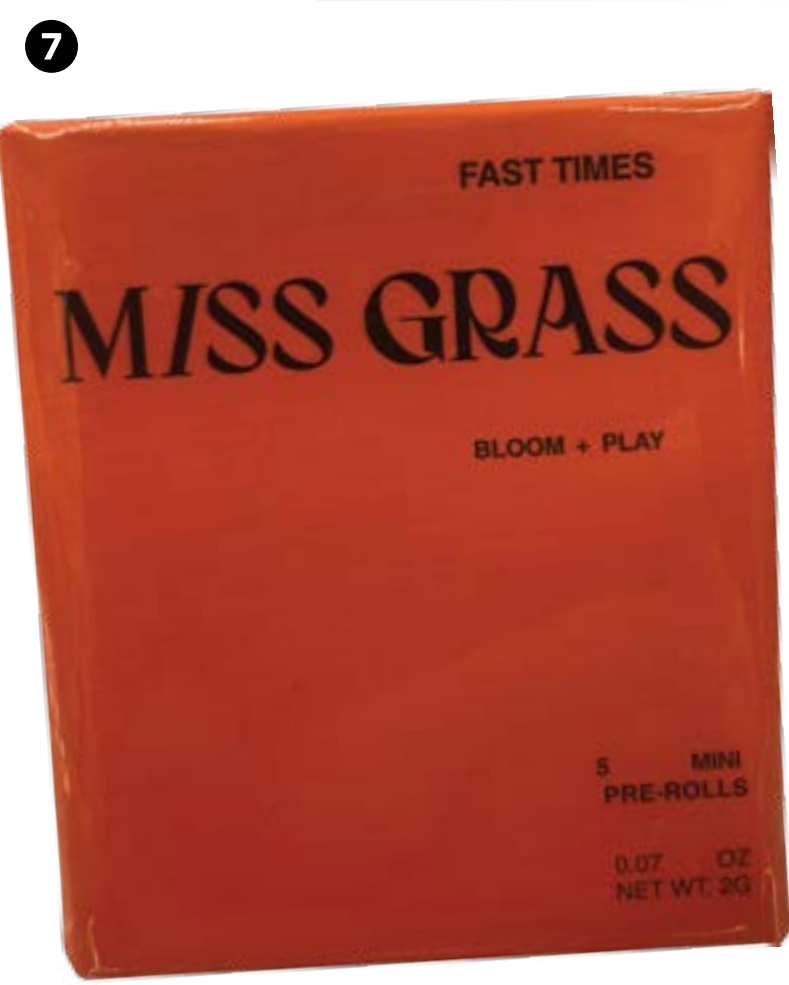
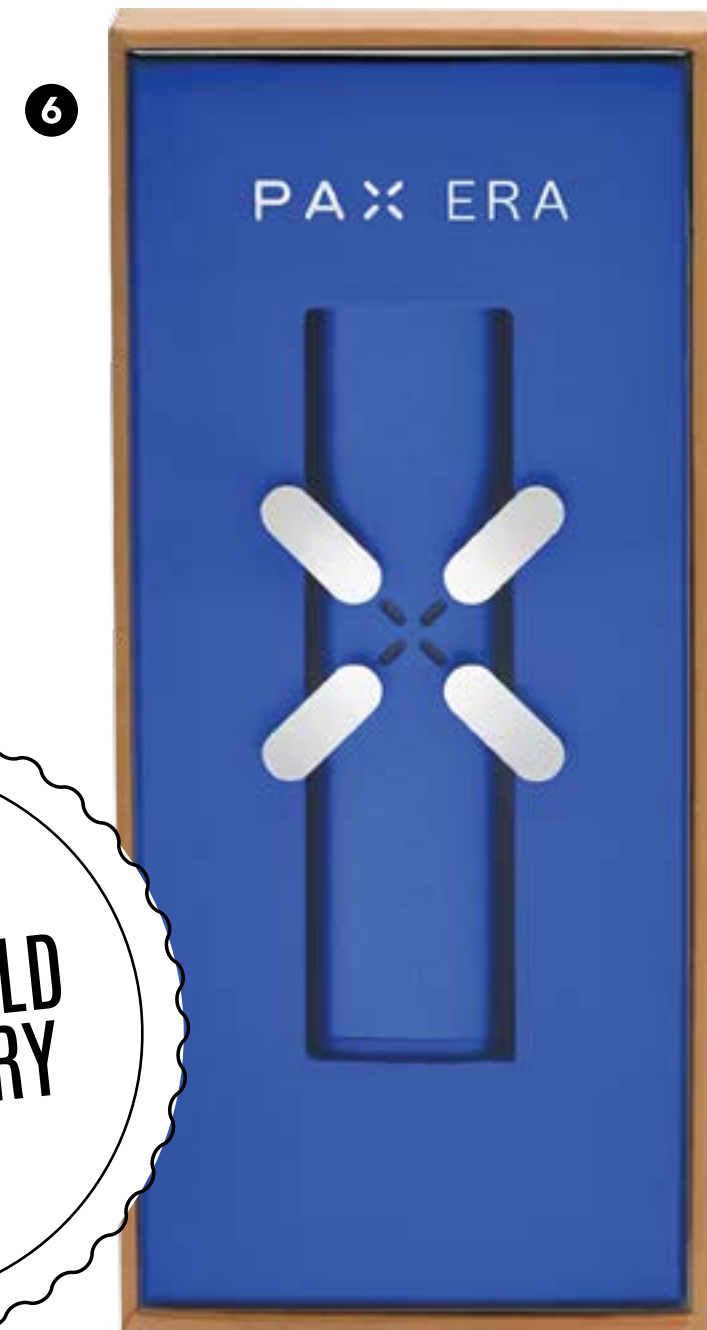


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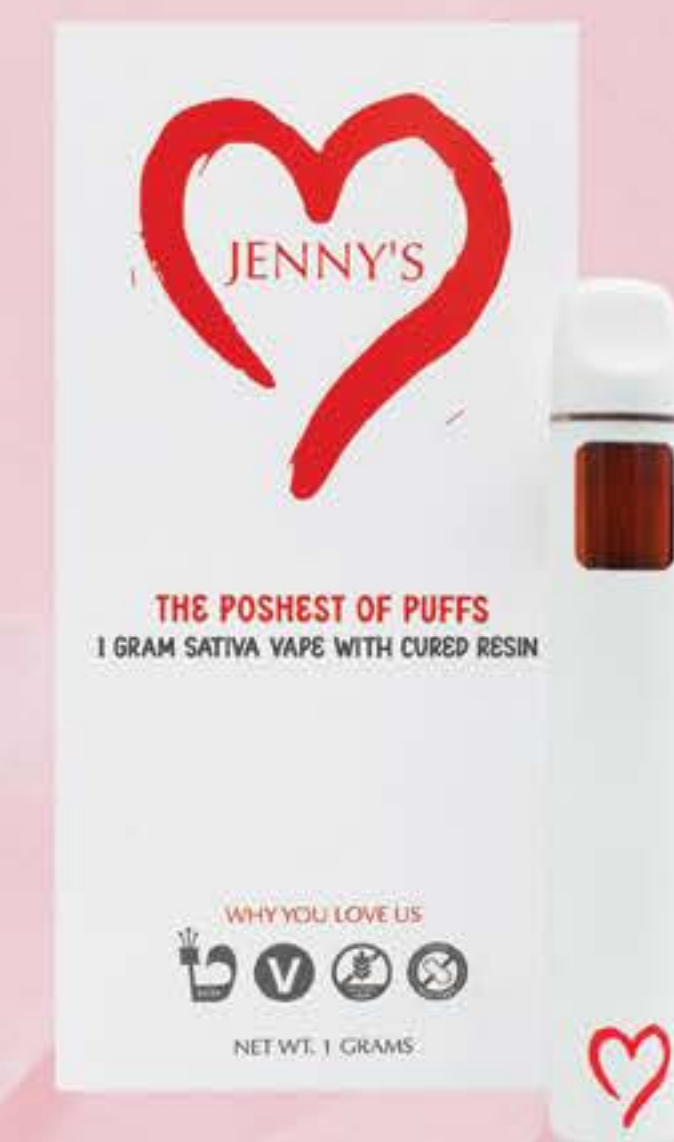
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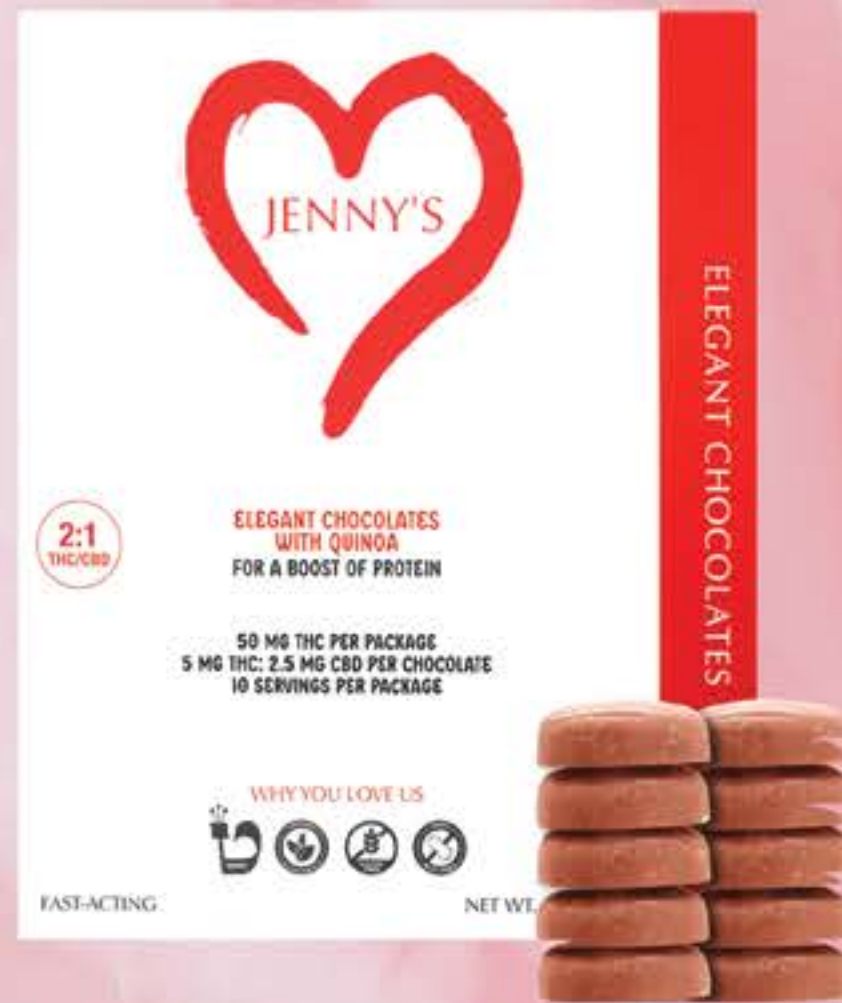
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Winter Warmers: Infused Drinks to Inspire Creativity

BY PHILIPPE MARQUIS

Now that we're in the thick of winter, the need for warmth and comfort becomes more pressing than ever. For those seeking to ignite their creative spark during these chilly months, there's nothing quite like a delightful, infused beverage to inspire the mind and elevate the senses.

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO IGNITE THEIR CREATIVE SPARK during these chilly months, there's nothing quite like a delightful, infused beverage to inspire the mind and elevate the senses. Whether it's a writer nestled in a cozy cafe, searching for the perfect words to capture the essence of the season, or an artist seeking to unleash their imagination in the sanctuary of their studio, these three winter warmers are designed to be the perfect companions on the journey to creative fulfillment.

In a world that often feels like it's been frozen in place by the icy grip of winter, these infused beverages serve as a reminder that even in the darkest, coldest months, there's still the potential for warmth, inspiration, and growth. They invite us to embrace the season, to find beauty in the stillness, and to use this time as an opportunity to nurture our creative selves. So, the next time the winter blues threaten to take hold, brew up one of these winter warmers, find a cozy spot, and let the creative juices flow. Who knows what masterpieces might emerge from a mug filled with warmth, flavor, and inspiration.

OLJA DANILEVICH



◀ **AYRLOOM HONEYCRISP APPLE CIDER** a balanced blend of THC and CBD in each can.

HONEYCRISP HOT TODDY a modern twist on a classic cocktail ▶

SERVES 1

Honeycrisp Hot Toddy

FIRST ON THE LIST IS THE HONEYCRISP HOT TODDY, a modern twist on a classic cocktail that combines the sweet, crisp notes of Ayrloom's Honeycrisp apple cider with the gentle buzz of Chef for Higher infused honey. This toddy is perfect for those who want to maintain focus during longer creative sessions, as the warmth of the drink and the sweet-tart balance of apple and lemon help to energize the mind and keep ideas flowing freely. The addition of a cinnamon stick and star anise infuses the toddy with a subtle, spicy aroma that tantalizes the senses, while a thin slice of fresh ginger can add an extra kick for those who crave a bit more heat.

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz Ayrloom Honeycrisp
- 1 tbsp Chef for Higher infused honey
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 star anise
- 1 thin slice of fresh ginger (optional)
- apple slice, cinnamon stick (for garnish)

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a medium saucepan, warm the Honeycrisp apple cider over medium heat.
- Stir in the infused honey and lemon juice until fully dissolved.
- Pour the mixture into a mug and add the cinnamon stick, star anise, and ginger slice (if using).
- Garnish with an apple slice and an additional cinnamon stick.



This toddy is perfect for those who want to maintain focus during longer creative sessions, as the warmth of the drink and the sweet-tart balance of apple and lemon help to energize the mind and keep ideas flowing freely.



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DogWalkersPreRolls.com



Winter Warmers: Infused Drinks to Inspire Creativity

BY PHILIPPE MARQUIS

SERVES 1

Spiced Chocolate Delight

For those who crave a richer, more indulgent experience, the **Spiced Chocolate Delight** is the perfect choice. This luxurious hot chocolate combines high-quality dark chocolate with **Chef for Higher** infused ghee, creating a luscious, cannabis-infused base that's enhanced by the addition of Nutella for an extra layer of decadence. A pinch of cayenne pepper adds a subtle heat that lingers on the tongue, while cinnamon and vanilla extract round out the flavors, creating a complex and satisfying beverage that's sure to inspire the senses and ignite the creative spirit.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz high-quality dark chocolate, chopped
- 1 tsp Chef for Higher infused ghee
- 1 tbsp Nutella
- 8 oz whole milk
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- Whipped cream, cinnamon dust, chocolate shavings (for garnish)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Finely chop the dark chocolate and place it in a saucepan with the infused ghee. Melt the chocolate and ghee over low heat, stirring constantly to prevent burning.
- Add the Nutella and whisk until fully incorporated.
- Gradually pour in the milk, whisking continuously to create a smooth consistency.
- Stir in the cayenne pepper, cinnamon, and vanilla extract.
- Pour the hot chocolate into a mug and top with whipped cream, a dusting of cinnamon, and chocolate shavings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEF FOR HIGHER

WHEN PREPARING THESE WINTER WARMERS, IT'S essential to keep a few tips in mind to ensure the perfect beverage every time. For the Matcha Coconut Latte, use a "W" motion when whisking the matcha to create a smooth, frothy consistency. The optimal temperature for steeping matcha is 175°F, while milk should be steamed to around 150°F for the best results. Don't be afraid to get creative with garnishes, either. A dusting of cocoa powder, a drizzle of caramel, or a sprinkle of toasted coconut flakes can add an extra layer of visual appeal and flavor to these already delightful drinks. As with any infused beverage, it's important to start with a low dose of infused ingredients and adjust according to personal preference and



SERVES 1

Matcha Coconut Latte

For those seeking a more meditative, focused experience, the **Matcha Coconut Latte** is the ideal choice. This beautiful, vibrant green latte starts with ceremonial grade matcha, which is whisked to perfection and combined with **Chef for Higher** infused coconut oil for a gentle, sustained energy boost. Steamed oat milk or another plant-based milk is then added to create a smooth, creamy consistency that's light and refreshing, making it the perfect beverage to sip on during long, focused creative sessions.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tsp ceremonial grade matcha powder
- 1 tsp Chef for Higher infused coconut oil
- 2 oz hot water
- 6 oz steamed oat milk or other plant-based milk
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- Matcha powder dusting (for garnish)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Sift the matcha powder into a warm ceramic bowl.
- Add the hot water and whisk vigorously with a bamboo chasen until the matcha is fully dissolved and a light foam forms.
- Stir in the infused coconut oil until melted and combined.
- Pour in the steamed oat milk and vanilla extract (if using), and whisk gently to create a smooth consistency.
- Pour the latte into a mug and garnish with a light dusting of matcha powder.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEF FOR HIGHER

Cannabis in American Literature:

From Fitz Hugh Ludlow to the Beats

BY TEDDY DUNCAN JR. ♦

Psychoactive drugs are ubiquitous in every society, whether ancient or modern, and can be found in their medicines, their ceremonies, and their art. Today, cannabis is the drug (aside from alcohol) most commonly referenced in films or music and writing—and literature is crucial to the history of cannabis in modern art.

IN 1821, THE ENGLISH WRITER THOMAS DE QUINCEY PUBLISHED an autobiographical account of his addiction to laudanum, a liquid tincture containing powdered opium, titled *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*. De Quincey frames the book as a didactic narrative intended to caution European readers against the implicit dangers of opium and its attendant hellish delirium and physiological addiction.

As he writes, “the moral of my narrative is addressed to the opium eater... [i]f he is taught to fear and tremble, enough has been effected.” *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* later became the Victorian equivalent of a best-seller.

While it is unknown exactly how effective a deterrent De Quincey’s narrative was for opium addiction, it was critically praised for its lush, baroque prose in the visions of opiate heaven and hell that he describes. Other texts had certainly mentioned drugs before, such as the enigmatic soma of ancient Hindu texts and the unidentified substances in Shakespeare’s work. But *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* marked the genesis of modern drug literature, which would use the burgeoning modern novel form—as well as poetry—to catalog the inner-experience of drugs.

CANNABIS AND THE EARLY ADDICTION NARRATIVE: THE HASHEESH EATER
Since De Quincey, there have been literary confessional auto-narratives on psychedelics, opiates, stimulants, and nearly every other synthesizable drug or psychoactive plant material. Each substance has its own dedicated narratives, but cannabis has a particular modern literary lineage, especially in the United States.

In 1857, the American writer Fitz Hugh Ludlow published *The Hasheesh Eater*, which largely follows the archetype provided by *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*. It is an addiction narrative detailing the author’s tumultuous experiences with what he calls hasheesh, a concentrated form of cannabis known today as hash—which, at that time, was newly introduced to the Western World from the East.

Like De Quincey, Ludlow’s prose centers on the visionary experience of a drug with the same underlying insistence on preventing others from using the

substance. Ludlow admonishes the reader to recognize that “the soul withers ... beneath the dominance of any sensual indulgence.”

Despite seeking to warn potential users of the supposedly addictive and hyper-hallucinogenic properties of hasheesh, describing hellish visions and calling it an “accursed drug,” Ludlow’s book prompted increased public interest in its use. Shortly after his book’s publication, an influx of candies and other commodities were marketed as containing hasheesh. At least some of this newfound appeal is

Cannabis has a particular modern literary lineage, especially in the United States.

attributable to Ludlow’s book and its psychedelically celestial passages.

At the beginning of the book, before Ludlow is in the thralls of his addiction, he recounts the visionary heavens of hasheesh: “Unimaginable hours intoxicated

the sense with airy ballet-dances of a divine gracefulness, rose-wreathed upon a stage of roses, and flooded with the blush of a rosy atmosphere.”

At one point, he even claims that, after consuming hasheesh, “My powers became superhuman; my knowledge covered the universe; my scope of sight was infinite.”

Due to these exuberant (and likely hyperbolic) descriptions of the effects of hasheesh, cannabis became more popular among Americans and likely led to a deeper attraction to the plant as a literary subject.

“TEA” AND THE BEATS

Almost a century after the publication of *The Hasheesh Eater*, the proto-hippie literary movement called the Beat Generation would return cannabis to literature, using it as both a topical cultural reference and inspiration throughout their work.

The Beat Generation was a group of American writers whose most prolific literary output was at its height from the 1950s to mid-1960s, although many beat writers would continue publishing significant work for the remainder of the 20th century. For the Beats, cannabis offered a non-utilitarian “kick” that did not capitulate to the Western mid-20th-century ideals of materialism and social homogeneity.

A poet, Allen Ginsberg, and two novelists, William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac, were the three primary figures of the Beat Generation. All three writers frequently referenced cannabis in their work—which, particularly in



“My powers became superhuman; my knowledge covered the universe; my scope of sight was infinite.”



The proto-hippie literary movement called the Beat Generation would return cannabis to literature, using it as both a topical cultural reference and inspiration throughout their work.

the writings published in the 1950s, was referred to as “tea.”

In his novel *On the Road*, Kerouac writes about smoking “sticks of tea.” In Burroughs’ semi-autobiographical book, *Junky*, he details selling cannabis and complains about “tea heads” who wanted to “sit around talking for half an hour to sell two dollars’ worth of weed.”

Burroughs later observes, in 1953 before official medical research, that “tea” was not addictive (unlike his drug of choice at the time, heroin) and that “tea heads,” even when in jail for extended periods, did not experience withdrawal symptoms.

Unlike Ludlow, the Beats fully embraced cannabis as a psychoactive countercultural tool, emblematic of their repudiation of conformism. They accepted the heavens of cannabis and outright rejected the hells that Ludlow reported.

ALLEN GINSBERG AND THE “TEAHEAD JOYRIDE”

In his seminal, generation-defining poem, *Howl*, first published in 1958, Ginsberg mentions cannabis multiple times. He relies on his long, free-verse lines and free-associated collage of images, referencing friends who “got busted in their pubic beards returning through Laredo with a belt of marijuana for New York,” and others enjoying the “teahed joyride.”

Ginsberg was the most vocal of the three major Beat figures on drug-related issues and revered cannabis as a psycho-spiritual plant. In 1965, he wrote a two-part sprawling essay in *The Atlantic* on cannabis, noting that

the first half was “written while the author was smoking marihuana.” In a prophetically incisive section, he declared that cannabis laws suppressed civil rights in America and that a “cancerous” bureaucracy had developed to enforce those laws.

Ginsberg also praises cannabis as “a useful catalyst for specific optical and aural perceptions... most of the major (best and most famous too) poets, painters, musicians, cineastes, sculptors, actors, singers and publishers in America and England have been smoking for years and years.”

Surveying American literature affirms Ginsberg’s claim on cannabis and art: Writers from Ludlow in the 19th century to 20th-century writers like the Beats, the critic and novelist Susan Sontag, and even the highly anthologized writer Maya Angelou all used and referenced cannabis in their work.

That emerging openness in the late 20th century mirrors an even more consequential change. In less than two centuries, the cultural tenor of cannabis has shifted from an addictive, hallucinogenic horror drug, to being sold openly in 24 states in America. From hasheesh being treated as an opium-like substance and tea covertly consumed by those at the margins of society, to cannabis—with product labels in glass jars—for purchase in state-licensed dispensaries.♦♦♦

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