

# St. Patrick's Day

## '09 parade: Still festive



WITH  
VICKY DEVLIN

BY MELINDA HSIA  
Special to amNewYork

If you think the dismal economy has affected the 248th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, think again.

Floats, celebs, musicians and, of course, revelers will be out in force on Tuesday to celebrate the luck of the Irish.

Though there were funding shortages last year, the St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celebration Committee has launched revenue-driving initiatives to help fund this year's parade.

Among them, the development of a commercial logo for the parade — a Celtic trinity knot depicting St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Irish harp — was created to operate in a similar money-making way as the Olympics logo. Companies pay for the right to use the logo on their products, which shows they're official parade supporters.

### The facts:

**When:** March 17th, 11 a.m. to 4:30-5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Along Fifth Ave., from 44th St. to 86th St.

### Best viewing points:

■ Most spectators pack the sidewalks between 44th and 59th streets, though anywhere above 66th will provide a better view.

■ The upper steps of the Metropolitan Museum on 82nd Street are a great vantage point from which to watch the parade.

■ To get a close-up view of the parade's participants, head over to 86th, where they'll be exiting and mingling with the crowd.

The committee also increased the number of fundraisers and made donations possible through their Web site, which will stream live video of Tuesday's festivities.

"We were concerned about funding," said Hilary



Revelers along the parade route, which runs from 44th Street to 86th Street.

(GETTY)

Beirne, corresponding secretary-director of the parade committee. "We had to get creative."

Despite new developments, tradition will still rule. "It'll be a celebration of our heritage and culture," said Beirne. The 69th Regiment of the Na-

tional Guard, recognized as "The Irish Infantry," will lead the parade, followed by both the NYPD and NYFD and more than 200,000 marchers.

Revelers can expect to see Irish ambassador Michael Collins and Miss USA Crystle Stewart on

the route, as well.

Retired executive vice president and general manager for Estee Lauder Inc., Michael Gibbons, will serve as grand marshal. Gibbons served as the president of Ireland-U.S. Council before stepping down in November. w

BY CASEY FELDMAN  
Special to amNewYork

Most New Yorkers become at least a wee bit Irish on March 17th. Tir Na Nog, on the other hand, is all Irish, year round. The Herald Square pub stands out for its friendly staff and homey feel. We caught up with bartender and recent Irish expat Vicky Devlin, 30, and got the St. Pat's scoop.

### What's the difference between American and Irish bar-goers?

Americans are a lot louder.

### What do true Irish drinkers drink?

Always Guinness for the men. Women are more like a half glass of beer or a vodka.

### What about shots?

Jameson all the way.

### Are there any drinks we Americans order that make you cringe?

Water. It's the most annoying thing anyone can ask for in a bar. Water or coffee. It's terrible. I'm like, "Get out of here! If you want coffee, go across the street!"

### What's St. Patrick's Day going to be like this year?

Too nuts. Busy, busy, busy. I'm the only female bartender. It's going to be me and the boys that day. Going to be a lot of fun.

### Got any good tips for curing a hangover?

The hair of the dog. Or a Bloody Mary. I like to do a Car Bomb or a Jäger Bomb the morning after. Keep it going for a while.

### Are you excited about your first American St. Paddy's day?

Very excited. I expect to be run off my feet that day, but I'm looking forward to the few beers I'll have when I'm finished.

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### The terms

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day the authentic way — soused — you not only have to think like an Irishman, you have to drink like an Irishman. To do that, consult this field guide of Irish spirits.

BY METROMIX.COM

**Mead:** This ancient golden nectar made by fermenting honey, water and yeast with herbs, spices or flowers is thought to have been first made in the medieval times by Irish monks.

**Alcopops:** Alcopops is a fancy term for pre-mixed, flavored alcoholic beverages

that boil down to water, sugar, food coloring, juice and alcohol and are popular to a fault with the young'uns in Ireland.

**Hard cider:** Ireland's flagship hard cider, Bulmers, had to change its name once it got to the states so it wouldn't be confused with a same-named English cider. Known as Magner's stateside, it can be found at most beer bars and Irish pubs. Be sure

to request it over ice, which is the proper way it's served in the old country.

**Whiskey:** That's whiskey with an "e" — a distinction made in the 1870s when Scottish distilleries were making swill (whisky) and the Irish wanted to protect their superior product. Today, the only difference is that the Scots dry their malt over an open peat fire, whereas the Irish don't.

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