

中國賈湖，微有山楂味 Ch. Jiahu, with Hawthorn Accents

By SUSAN JAKES

China has long prided itself on having come up with many of the world's most important inventions. Now the country that gave us gunpowder, paper money and the noodle can claim responsibility for another of human civilization's highest achievements: we have the Chinese, or at least their distant ancestors, to thank for cocktails. According to a report released last week in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in the U.S., residents of the Neolithic village of Jiahu in Henan province were raising toasts with fruit wines and rice spirits in 7000 B.C.—usurping Iran's first place in the tippie timeline by at least a thousand years.

中國向來自豪生出世界上許多最重要的發明。現在，這個給了我們火藥、紙鈔與麵條的國家又可記上另一筆人類文明的最高成就：今天的雞尾酒得拜中國人或者至少是中國人的遠祖所賜。根據上週在美國《國家科學院記錄》發表的一份報告，河南省新石器時代村落賈湖的居民，在西元前七千年就以水果酒跟米酒舉杯相敬了——以至少早了一千年的差距，把伊朗從釀酒史的冠軍寶座給擠了下來。

The five-year study, conducted by archeologists and chemists working under the direction of Patrick E. McGovern, an expert at the University of Pennsylvania on the history of fermented beverages, identified traces of the brews on shards of pottery excavated from Jiahu in the 1980s. As did the ancients in other parts of the world, the Chinese probably concocted the drinks, using rice, hawthorn fruits, wild grapes and honey, for religious libations. According to Zhang Juzhong, an archeologist at the University of Science and Technology of China, who



discovered the shards, Jiahu's residents—who also made the world's earliest known musical instruments—“probably drank the wine to numb their minds and to help them commune with the divine.” And given Chinese ingenuity, that probably wasn't all. (From the pages of

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賓州大學醱酵飲料史專家派崔克麥克高文領導一群考古學家與化學家進行了五年的研究，從一九八〇年代在

賈湖挖掘出來的陶片上，辨識出這些酒類的殘留。中國人以米、山楂、野葡萄跟蜂蜜製酒，跟世界上其他地區的古人的樣子一樣，很可能也是用於宗教的祭酒。發現這些陶片的中國科技大學考古學家張居中表示，賈湖居民——他們也製造了世界上已知最早的樂器——「很可能是喝酒來麻痺心靈以便和神溝通。」以中國人的聰明才智而言，可能還不只是為了這個。

歡迎光臨泰坦 Welcome to Titan

By ELIZABETH WOYKE

Forty-eight years after mankind's first forays into space, the toxic orange haze covering Titan, Saturn's largest moon, has finally been penetrated. Ending a seven-year, 3.5 billion-kilometer voyage, the Huygens probe touched down on Titan last week, giving earthbound gawkers their first glimpse of its icy surface. Early transmissions from the 350-kg probe revealed a smog-shrouded landscape of boulder-strewn plains, winding drainage channels, and



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