THE WORLD'S BEST MOONSHINE

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*Santo Antão island, Cape Verde.*The world's best moonshine,

which the islanders call *grogue*, is made here. There are ten islands comprising the country of Cape Verde, some 400 miles off the West African coast of Senegal in the Atlantic Ocean. For hundreds of years, Cape Verdeans have been making grogue but the folks like the fellow here on Santo Antão have perfected it.

You'll find their stills out in the sugar cane fields, where they put the cane in to a press called a *trapiche*, then cook down the molasses in an old oil drum into a clear distilled rum that's up to 140 proof or more. This fellow is pouring me a sample to taste in a coconut shell. You have to be really careful because it's so smooth and silky it goes down like water – making it very easy to get quickly wasted.

If you like it – which of course you will – he'll pour fresh grogue into an empty plastic liter water bottle and sell it to you for six bucks. People are always partying in Cape Verde, and why not with all this grogue. They don't mix it with anything except some lime juice and an ice cube. Really fantastic. Come to Cape Verde and have great time yourself! (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #171* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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