CLAIMS

1. A method for producing wood particles for use in the production of alcoholic beverages, comprising the steps of:
a) washing wood particles with only water under agitation at a temperature of at least 60°C,
b) removing the water from the wood particles,
c) thermal drying of the wood particles, and
d) toasting the wood particles to obtain wood particles for use in the production of alcoholic beverages.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incubating the wood particles with an aroma-bearing liquid, subsequently removing any supernatant aroma-bearing liquid and subsequently drying the wood particles to obtain aromatized wood particles.

3. A method for the treatment of wood particles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the wood particles are small-scale having an edge length of about 2mm.

4. The method of any one claims 1-3, wherein the wood particles have a shape of wood chips or wood cubes.

5. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the wood particles are oak particles.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the wood particles are American oak particles.

7. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the washing of the wood particles with water under agitation is carried out at a temperature of at least 80°C.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the washing of the wood particles with water under agitation is carried out at a temperature of at least 95°C.

9. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein

the washing of the wood particles with water under agitation is carried out for more than 1 hour.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the washing of the wood particles with water under agitation is carried out for more than 5 hours.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the washing of the wood particles with water underagitation is carried out for more than 8 hours.

12. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein for washing the wood particles with water under agitation, more than 5 liters of water per kg of wood particle is used.

13. The method of any one of claims 1-11, wherein for washing the wood particles with water under agitation more than 10 liters of water per kg of wood particles are used.

14. The method of any one of claims 1-11, wherein for washing the wood particles with water under agitation more than 12 liters of water / kg of wood particles are used.

15. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-14, wherein the removal of the water from the wood particles is achieved by one of sieving, suction, and spinning.

16. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 1-15, wherein the thermal drying of the wood particles is carried out in an oven.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the thermal drying of the wood particles is carried out in the oven for about 15-30 minutes at about 180-200°C.

18. The method of any one of claims 1-17, wherein the toasting of the wood particles is carried out in a baking oven.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein toasting of the wood particles is carried out in the

baking oven for about 60 minutes at about 180-200°C.

20. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 2-19, wherein the incubation of the wood particles with the aroma-bearing liquid is carried out by overlaying the wood particles with the aroma-bearing liquid.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the aroma-bearing liquid is one of sherry, portwine, rum, cognac, gin, wine, and fruit brandy.

22. A method for producing wood particles according to any one of claims 2-21, wherein the wood particles incubated with the aroma-bearing liquid are dried by sieving-off excess aroma-bearing liquid or thermally, in a baking oven at 90-130°C.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the wood particles incubated with the aroma-bearing liquid are thermally dried in the baking oven at 120°C.

24. A method of producing alcoholic beverages, comprising the following steps:

a) providing an alcoholic beverage with wood particles; the wood particles having been produced by washing the wood particles with only water under agitation at a temperature of at least 60 °C, removing the water from the wood particles, thermally drying the wood particles, and toasting the wood particles;

b) incubating the alcoholic beverage with the wood particles; and

c) removing the wood particles from the alcoholic beverage incubated therewith.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of storing the incubated alcoholic beverage in a barrel.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of storing the incubated alcoholic beverage in an oak barrel.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of storing the incubated alcoholic beverage in a barrel of American oak.

28. The method of any one of claims 24-27, further comprising the step of carrying out one or more further incubations of the alcoholic beverage with wood particles.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the wood particles are aromatized wood particles.

30. The method of any one of claims 24-29, wherein the wood particles are newly prepared or already used for beverage treatment.

31. The method according to any one of claims 24-30, wherein the alcoholic beverage is provided with at least 10g per liter of wood particles.

32. The method according to claim 31, wherein the alcoholic beverage is provided with10g to 70g per liter of wood particles.

33. The method according to any one of claims 24 - 32, wherein the incubation of the alcoholic beverage with the wood particles is carried out under agitation about 3 hours to 3 months or longer.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein the incubation of the alcoholic beverage with the wood particles is carried out under agitation for about 4 to 24 hours.

35. The method according to claim 33, wherein the incubation of the alcoholic beverage with the wood particles is carried out under agitation for about 6 to 14 hours.