

## Dickensian Absinthe?

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Who spotted Mr Venus [from *Our Mutual Friend* – played by Omid Djalili] sitting with a glass of absinthe in the finale of the BBC's *Dickensian* series?



I'll have what he's having! [Credit: BBC]

We were pleased to see what looks like a well prepared measure of traditional absinthe, in a classic absinthe glass, on Mr Venus' table as is joined by Inspector Bucket [from *Bleak House* – played by Stephen Rea] in *The Three Cripples* [the public house from *Oliver Twist*]. This is a historically sound appearance of *La Fée Verte* - the mid 19th century saw absinthe grow in popularity around the world. In the UK, absinthe was enjoyed at famous establishments like *The Savoy* and *Café Royal Hotel* (where Oscar Wilde enjoyed a glass or two) and would have no-doubt made its way into a few public houses.

Set in the universe of Charles Dicken's many famous literary works, the BBC series *Dickensian* has impressed on many levels, not least in the standard of writing and strength of cast.

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