

TORONTO'S TRUE COCKTAIL STORY



LIBRARY  
· BAR ·



## LIBRARY BAR

Some institutions are built in a moment. Library Bar has been built layer by layer, story by story, glass by glass. A Toronto landmark, cocktail den, and the birthplace of Toronto's legendary Birdbath Martini, Library Bar has been at the centre of Toronto's cocktail culture for over 50 years. Many lives, many chapters, each one woven together by a team of characters as storied as the drinks they pour.

Since opening, Library Bar has built on its history and reputation to establish itself as one of North America's leading cocktail destinations, earning recognition both at home and abroad as one of the great bar experiences on the continent.



## DRINKS AS STORY



Storytelling has always been an act of hospitality. Since the earliest expressions of human generosity, food, drink, and stories have been the currency of connection, and at Library Bar, that belief is poured into every glass. Library Bar's current menu is philosophy in action.

Library Bar's latest menu pays homage to the bar's origins. Drawing on the history, people, and celebratory spirit of Library Bar, the team has transformed a charming tale into an illustrated storybook. Evocative of the works of Wes Anderson and Ludwig Bemelmans, the menu unfolds like a storybook, integrating the bar's journey as well as hand-painted illustrations and two-page spreads that bring each chapter and cocktail to life. At the heart of the book are the Librarian, based on the gentleman who oversaw Library Bar and its predecessor the Royal York Library, and Hazel, a longtime regular on whose firsthand accounts of Library Bar's birth were the basis for our new menu. To bridge the past with the present, the illustrations also feature characters drawn from the current bar team. Inspired by people, moments, and even some of the earliest menus from Library Bar's birth nearly 55 years ago. The menu and story celebrate what Library Bar continues to preserve over thirty years: its revered hospitality, respite, and community.

# THE MANY COCKTAILS OF LIBRARY BAR



At Library Bar, the cocktail program has always been an act of translation, converting cultural canon into liquid form, transforming beloved stories into exquisite drinks, and finding in every glass an opportunity to say something worth remembering.

A capital for connoisseurs who appreciate their classics stirred to perfection and daring elixirs that transcend beyond tradition, the program spans more than 50 years of craft and curiosity. Storytelling, craft, and history have always been at the heart of Library Bar's beverage program. In our previous menu, *LIGHTS*, we explored the intersection of cocktail history and a masterpiece of Canadian literature. Our new menu, *Opening Night*, is a love letter to the people who made Library Bar what it is and an invitation to explore the story of how we came to be. Some drinks have never left the menu. Others arrive as new chapters in an ongoing story. All of them belong to this city.





# LIBRARY · BAR ·

**AUTHOR:** *Library Bar*

**TITLE:** Library Voices

**INGREDIENTS:** 30ml Amaro Meletti  
15ml Varnelli Caffè Moka liqueur  
15ml Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth  
60ml Sparkling Wine  
2 dashes Coffee Tincture

**METHOD:** Add all ingredients to an ice-filled rocks glass. Stir gently to combine and garnish with a lemon wheel.





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**AUTHOR:** *Library Bar*

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**TITLE:** Post Shift

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**INGREDIENTS:** 60ml Guinness Stout  
20ml Alberta Premium Cask  
Strength Rye  
10ml Gosling's Black Seal Rum  
15ml Kahlua Liqueur  
10ml Espresso

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**METHOD:** Shake all ingredients with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Float freshly whipped cream on top.



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**AUTHOR:** *Library Bar*

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**TITLE:** Hazel's  
Chrysanthemum

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**INGREDIENTS:** 45ml Martini Bianco Vermouth  
15ml Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth  
15ml B&B liqueur  
2 Dashes of Peach Bitters  
3 Dashes of Absinthe

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**METHOD:** Stir all ingredients with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a twist of orange.



# CHARACTERS LOVE CHARACTER



Personifying the hotel's lineage, founded in the exuberance of the Roaring Twenties, a broad-stroke Art Deco motif sets the stage for the legacy of vivacious performers who once entertained raucous crowds. Guests poured in from the hotel's Imperial Room to dine on lavish nightcaps that flowed into the early morning hours. A vibrant mosaic of fluid marbles, rich leathers of bold primary hues, whimsical velvets, and satin fringe adorn a nuanced canvas decorated with Canadian literature and sixteenth-century Renaissance paintings. Library Bar invites imbibers to lounge, while convivial servers weave throughout the bustle with drinks and bites in tow, ensuring that each guest has their own perfect night.



RECOGNITION, LIKE  
A GREAT COCKTAIL,  
IS EARNED ONE GUEST  
AT A TIME. THESE ARE  
THE STORIES OTHERS  
HAVE TOLD ABOUT US.

**North America's 50 Best Bars, No. 19, 2026**

**Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award,  
North America's 50 Best Bars, 2026**

**Canada's 100 Best Bars, No. 5, 2026**

Canada's 100 Best, Best Hotel Bar, 2026

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Top 10 Nominee, 2026

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Bar Team,  
Regional Top 10 Nominee, 2026

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Regional Top 4 Nominee, 2026

The Pinnacle Guide, 1 PIN, 2025

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Top 10 Nominee, 2025

North America's 50 Best Bars, Extended List, No. 51, 2025

Canada's 100 Best Bars, No. 6, 2025

Canada's 100 Best Hotel Bar, 2025

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Top 10 Nominee, 2024

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Regional Top 10 Nominee, 2024

Canada's 100 Best Bars, No. 23, 2023

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Top 10 Nominee, 2023

Tales of the Cocktail, Best International Hotel Bar,  
Regional Top 10 Nominee, 2023



## THE MANY LIVES OF LIBRARY BAR

### JAMES GRANT

*Director of Beverage,  
Fairmont Royal York*

Some careers are chosen. James Grant's chose him. After a successful stint in corporate public relations, Grant found himself in London, drawn inexplicably to a barback shift at a local pub. His natural talent for sharing stories through spirits and his unwavering dedication to hosting guests quickly propelled him to the forefront of the industry. Today, James is one of Canada's leading voices in cocktail culture.

James returned home to Edmonton, Alberta, where he honed his craft across some of the west's most celebrated cocktail bars, including Woodwork, Baijiu and Pablo, before taking the helm at Little Hong Kong, a 16-seat speakeasy in Edmonton where he ran the bar from 2018 until 2022. A crucible for his philosophy of hospitality, it was here that Grant developed the belief that would define everything that followed: every guest deserves an experience crafted entirely for them.

That philosophy carried him to the top of his craft. Recognized as World Class Global Bartender of the Year 2021 and Canada's 100 Best Bartender of the Year 2022, Grant now leads the beverage program at Fairmont Royal York and at Library Bar, where every guest still gets an experience crafted entirely for them.



Proud recipient of the *Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award, North America's 50 Best Bars, 2026*, Library Bar is proof that luxury hospitality and rigorous environmental responsibility go hand-in-hand.

From AI-driven waste tracking that has reduced landfill waste by over 50 per cent, to a cocktail program that repurposes spent bar ingredients into liqueurs and garnishes, to a rooftop garden and apiary supplying fresh honey, every detail is considered. The bar's efforts are bolstered by the Fairmont Royal York's landmark Zero Carbon Building Performance Standard certification, and a community program that redistributes more than 2,000 meals to Toronto charities each month.

Opening year:  
1972

Number of seats:  
80

Hours:  
12:00 pm to 12:00 am, daily

[librarybartoronto.com](https://librarybartoronto.com) @librarybartoronto



*Fairmont*  
ROYAL YORK