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FOOD & DRINK

Got the blues?

The Kingston "Tini" — Tango



BY JOSEPHINE MATYAS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM FORBES

Fictional MI6 agent James Bond always asks for his “shaken, not stirred,” and apparently martini purists can tell the difference. Have you sidled up to a bar lately and had a look at the menu of cocktails? The list of martinis has exploded to include flavours of chocolate, coffee and more fruits than you’ll find in most fruit salads. Maybe you’re jonesing for blackberries, cranberries and raspberries in liquid form? Just ask your local bartender. How about the sweetness of bananas? You’ll be overwhelmed by the selection.

And in Kingston, no one does martinis like Tango, the funky downtown tapas bar. As if the 40-odd martinis on the menu didn’t satisfy just about every flavour craving out there, owner Ian Nicholls has developed a drink that our hometown can truly call its own.

“The tourism folks at KEDCO were planning a presentation in Ottawa and were looking for a signature drink,” he says. “So we sat down at the bar at Tango and talked about all of the things associated with Kingston. One of the city’s official colours is blue . . . it’s even on the Kingston flag.”

Nicholls followed the blue theme, pulled out his bar shaker, some bottles of blue curaçao, crème de menthe and crème de cacao, added a splash of wholesome milk, and the Kingston “Tini” was born.

"You get visual stimulation from the colour and it's a little softer than a straight liquor martini. We like to describe it as a creamy blend of mint and chocolate which will take you back to a relaxing time spent on the water's edge."

We certainly have lots of that water's edge in Kingston. Now we also have our own namesake martini.

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