



# Cocktail Culture Thrives as 40+ Venues Celebrate DC Cocktail Week

The art of the drink across the metro Washington is as strong as ever, and diners look to the region's mixology mavens to keep them intrigued — from happy hours, to spirits events, to tasting menus with cocktail pairings, and more. The District, once known for steak and martini lunches and the creation of the famed Gin Rickey cocktail, was the first city to start Prohibition in 1917, when many other cities didn't adopt the ban until closer to 1920. Hard to believe! But, rumor has it that the politicians who put the ruling in



place didn't follow the ban too closely, and the D.C. cocktail culture has flourished ever since.

Through the years, the region's spirited offerings were shaped by the industry and influenced by some

strategic trendsetters — like Derek Brown, whose Columbia Room (among many, many bars) helped put D.C. mixology on the map. In 2014, RAMW's RAMMY Awards expanded its award categories to include a dedicated "Cocktail Program of the Year" category, after many years of honoring a more general Beverage Program of the Year. And, while the bar community continues to experiment and keep patrons on their toes, an influx of

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