

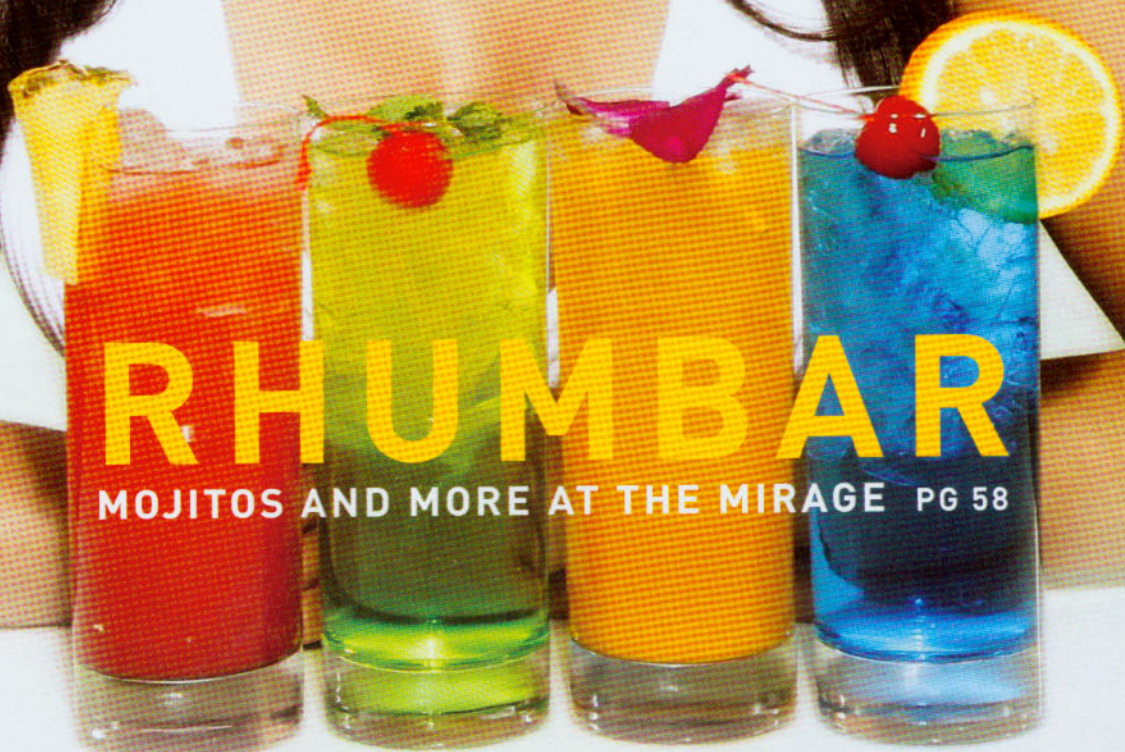
JULY 19, 2009

MYSTÈRE
THE JOURNEY UNFOLDS
AT TREASURE ISLAND PG 32

LANCE BURTON
THE MASTER OF MAGIC
AT MONTE CARLO PG 80

RHUMBAR

MOJITOS AND MORE AT THE MIRAGE PG 58



POUR SOME SUGAR ON IT

BY JACK HOUSTON

RUM'S THE WORD AT INDOOR-OUTDOOR RETREAT

It's the spirit that makes our mojitos move and our daiquiris dance, but rum has never gotten its fair shake in the cocktail community. Call it a conspiracy, but while vodka rules the clubs and tequila remains the definitive shot, rum gets flagged for its association in some of the most frou-frou drinks around.

Fortunately, it's time to put down the piña colada and venture outside the realm of traditional rum cocktails. Rhumbar is here to set the record straight on the sugarcane byproduct, proving that it can be enjoyed in drinks that don't have umbrellas or gaudy pineapple garnishes.

Since opening in March, Rhumbar has given connoisseurs of mixed drinks a new place to play on the Strip. The stylish, ultra-mod décor by Alvarez + Brock Design spans a slender indoor bar and a larger outdoor patio that was recently expanded because of overwhelming demand. The bar is separated from the hustle and bustle of The Mirage's entranceway by a 20-foot wall of white mint leaves. Fifteen chrome sculptures of fighting cocks linger high above the bar, and outside, oversize, plush furniture keeps comfort close at hand.

Adding to the selection of fine cocktails are a cigar humidor (co-owner Michael Frey also operates the Casa Fuente cigar lounge inside The Forum Shops at Caesars) and a daiquiri bar next door for drinkers on the go.

Bar Magic of Las Vegas definitely pulled a rabbit out of a hat in creating the cocktail menu, which boasts a little something for every drinker's palate. There are twists on old standbys (a mojito with dark rum), inventive originals (the spicy Samba Swizzle, which comes with a candied ginger garnish) and even a few non-rum cocktails, too.

Kicking off the workweek from 8 p.m. until it's time to party at Jet nightclub, Rhumbar's Pink Sugar Mondays gives partying a philanthropic touch with the Southern Nevada affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure receiving \$2 from each signature Pink Sugar cocktail sold. The Pink Sugar packs a punch with fresh raspberries, basil, whiskey barrel bitters, lemon and apple juices, Lillet Blanc Brazilian Hero and Leblon Cachaça and a sweet acai foam. (Try ordering that at your bar back home!)

It's a tasty drink and a great cause, and just another reason to give the oft-neglected spirit a second chance. LVM

MOJITO WITH DARK RUM



SAMBA SWIZZLE



THE MIRAGE
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