

On the Menu

Paige Matthie takes us with her as she samples the best Charlottetown has to offer, and at prices acceptable for the average student

I recently read over my past reviews, and I felt as though I'd left a piece out of Charlottetown's epicurean puzzle: drinks!

Each issue I'm going on and on about how excellent this sandwich is, or how heartwarming that soup is, and I've forgotten to even sample the splendid loveliness of all of the smooth/zinky/bloody fantastic liqueurs, wines, and

spirits in this boozy town.

I knew something would have to change, and that was definitely a challenge I was up for.

I embarked on my mission in February, a wise choice for those in search of cocktails and libation as the romance-themed drinks seem to come out of the woodwork (or is it that they become much more apparent, to our annoyance?)

In any case, I've road-tested a lot of martinis and found a solid few worth mentioning.

For anyone in the early days of romance, a visit to the 42nd Street Lounge is long overdue.

The Love Affair martini has a reputation that precedes it. It is the drink all of the bartenders recommend to first-timers at 42nd (to those more interested in cocktails than scotch or wine anyway), and it is one of the most blissful ways to introduce yourself to this velvety, mysterious watering-hole. The combination of Bailey's, cream, Swiss chocolate almond, and buttershots is like liquid cake and is just absolutely lush. It's like those joyous first kisses with a new love; there's no bitter aftertaste to

spoil the moment.

If you've had a less than rosy Valentine's Day experience this year, and are looking for a tonic to wallow in your sorrows with your best friends at your side, head to the Pilot House for their Bitter End martini. It's as tart as a granny-smith and stings like rejection, but in a good way. I love sour drinks, and this one tops my list with five-out-of-five puckers! So if you're nursing some wounds to your heart, the Bitter End's tough love is your prescription.

But perhaps you're in neither of these states. Perhaps you're just young, loving live, and wanting to celebrate. Then get your

sweet self down to Mavor's at the Confederation Centre of the Arts for a Showtime martini. This drink is all about fun, and is an exciting combination of vodka or gin, grapefruit juice, and melon liqueur. So if you're out downtown and craving something Sex and the City-esque, pop into Mavor's and get ready for Showtime (cheesy, I know!).

While martinis may not be for everyone, they are fun to try and usually don't disappoint, though I do recommend thinking twice about a "traditional" martini. They're a bit too much like paint thinner for me, and the olive was the best part. But to each his or her own. Happy drinking!

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