

Created by: Debra C. Argen

Spirit Awards - Tales of the Cocktail 2008

Paul and Ann R. Tuennerman hosted the [Tales of the Cocktail Spirit Award 2008](#) where the many nominees included [Gary Regan](#), [Dale DeGroff](#), [Kenta Goto](#), [Jim Meehan](#), [Philip Ward](#), [Charlotte Voisey](#), and [Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta](#).



It was a star-studded evening presented by [Pernod-Ricard USA](#) in the Casino Theatre at [Harrah's](#) in [New Orleans, Louisiana](#), with special guest emcees, actor [Christopher McDonald](#), and entertainer **Billy Harris**, where top spirits professionals gathered for a gala event of the 2nd annual Tales of the Cocktail Spirit Awards 2008.

"The Tales of the Cocktail Spirit Awards provides recognition to those individuals and establishments that have shown an outstanding talent for advancing the craft of the cocktail. To embody the ideals with which Tales of the Cocktail was originally founded, these awards provide recognition to both national, and as well as local New Orleanians."

For professionals involved in the spirits industry, the Tales of the Cocktail Spirit Awards are the equivalent of the Academy Awards for the film industry. Judged by one's peers, it is definitely an honor to be nominated for this prestigious award.

In the true "spirit" of the evening, the theme for the event was a Prohibition Repeal Party, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2008. Special cocktails for the evening included the **Aviation** (Beefeater Gin, Maraschino Liqueur, Fresh Lemon Juice), **Sea Fizz** (Pernod Absinthe, Simple Syrup, Fresh Lemon Juice, Egg White), **Sidecar** (Martell Noblige, Cointreau, Fresh Lemon Juice), **Jack Rose** (Applejack, Fee Brother's Grenadine, Fresh Lime Juice), **Bourbon Old-Fashioned** (Wild Turkey Bourbon, Angostura Bitters, Club Soda), **Presbyterian** (Chivas Regal, Ginger Ale), and **Champagne Cocktail** (Perrier-Jouët). Onstage, the band played, and London-based mixologist Nick Strangeway created cocktails for the winners at a large bar.

The Committee Chairman and Committee Members included: Simon Difford, Helmet Adam, Jacob Briars, Philip Duff, Robert Hess, Anistasia Miller, Xavier Padovani, Audrey Saunders, LeNell Smothers, David Steward, Jamie Terrell, Charlotte Voisey, and Angus Winchester.

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Paul and Ann R. Tuennerman

And the Nominees and Winners for the Tales of the Cocktail Spirit Awards 2008 are ...

Best Drinks Selection

This award is for a venue stocking an outstanding range of spirits and liqueurs. The judges favored discernment as well as sheer numbers of bottles stocked.

Winner: Salvatore at Fifty

Nominees:

Cantina

San Francisco, CA

United States

Death & Company

New York, NY

United States

Der Raum

Melbourne

Australia

Doheney

Downtown Los Angeles, CA

United States

The Merchant Hotel

Belfast

Northern Ireland

Salvatore at Fifty

London

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England

Trio Bar

Berlin

Germany

Matterhorn

Wellington

New Zealand

Best Classic Cocktail Bar

Classic bars continue to uphold best bartending practices and serve drinks in relaxed lounge-like environments. Judges looked for bars, which uphold this tradition (but are not necessarily old) and offer superb service and consistently well-made drinks.

Winner: Milk & Honey, New York City, NY, United States

Nominees:

American Bar

Connaught Hotel, London

England

Bramble

Edinburgh

Scotland

Death & Company

New York, NY

United States

Dukes Bar

Dukes Hotel, London

England

Experimental Cocktail Club

Paris

France

Flatiron Lounge

New York, NY

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United States

Milk & Honey

New York, NY

United States

Bar Le Forum

Paris

France

The Merchant Hotel

Belfast

Northern Ireland

Montgomery Place

London

England

Widder Bar

Zurich

Switzerland

World's Best Cocktail Bar

The award recognizes the international influence on cocktail trends and seeks to award the world's best cocktail bar.

Winner: Milk & Honey, New York City, NY, United States

Nominees:

Flatiron Lounge

New York, NY

United States

Le Lion - Bar de Paris

Hamburg

Germany

The Lionsdale

London

England

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The Merchant Hotel

Belfast

Northern Ireland

Milk & Honey

New York, NY

United States

Milk & Honey

London

England

Paparazzi

Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Salvatore at Fifty

London

England

Star Bar

Ginza, Tokyo

Japan



Best NEW Cocktail Bar

Only bars that opened in the past 18 months preceding the awards were eligible for nomination. The award aims to reward new creativity and ideas as well as well executed drinks.

Winner: Le Lion - Bar de Paris, Hamburg, Germany

Nominees:

Bar Milano

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New York, NY

United States

Beretta

San Francisco, CA

United States

Death & Company

New York, NY

United States

Le Lion - Bar de Paris

Hamburg

Germany

02 Lounge

Ritz Carlton, Moscow

Russia

PDT (Please Don't Tell)

New York, NY

United States

Ruby

Copenhagen

Denmark

Mixologist/Bartender of the Year

The absolute best drinks mixer. The winner should be proficient at making all recognized classic drinks and also have created contemporary cocktails, which have been copied by his/her peers.

Winner: Nick Strangeway, Hawksmoor, London, England

Nominees:

John Gerstern

No. 9 Park, Boston, MA

United States

Kenta Goto

Pegu Club, New York, NY

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United States

Charles Joly

The Drawing Room, Chicago, IL

United States

Duggan McDonnell

Cantina, San Francisco, CA

United States

Erik Lorincz

Purple Bar, London

England

Jim Meehan

PDT (Please Don't Tell), New York, NY

United States

Ago Perrone

Montgomery Place, London

England

Sam Ross

Milk & Honey, New York, NY

United States

Nick Strangeway

Hawksmoor, London

England

Charles Vexenat

The Lonsdale, London

England

Philip Ward

Death & Company, New York, NY

United States

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Best New Cocktail/Bartending Book

The best book published in 2007 regarding cocktails, liquor, bars, bar design, or bartending in general. New editions of existing works published in 2007 were also legible to be nominated.

Winner: *Imbibe* By David Wondrich

Nominees:

Imbibe

By David Wondrich

Mixing New Orleans, Cocktails & Legends

By Jennifer Adams

In the Land of Cocktails

By Ti Adelaide Martin and Lally Brennan

And a Bottle of Rum - A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails

By Wayne Curtis



Best Cocktail Writing

Great journalism is one of the best ways to communicate to the general public the value and significance of great cocktails and related products. This award is for any non-book journalism (Magazine, Newspaper, Website, etc), which promotes bars, bartenders, or cocktails in general.

Winner: Gary Regan (San Francisco Chronicle)

Nominees:

Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta

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Luxury Experience Magazine

Jeff Berry

Tiki God

Paul Clarke

Imbibe Magazine & San Francisco Chronicle

Ted Haigh

Imbibe Magazine

Gary Regan

San Francisco Chronicle

David Wondrich

Imbibe! From Absinthe Cocktail to Whiskey Smash

Best New Product

This award is for what the judges consider to be the best new cocktail ingredient (spirit, liqueur, syrup, or juice) or piece of cocktail equipment (muddler, shaker, etc). To qualify, products must be available for general retail sale in at least three US states.

Winner: Fever Tree Mixers

Nominees:

Fee Brothers Whiskey Barrel Aged Bitters

Fever Tree Mixers

Lucid Absinthe

Domaine de Canton

Plymouth Sloe Gin

Q Tonic

Qi White Tea Liqueur

Rothman & Winter Orchard Apricot Liqueur

Sagatiba Pura

Best Cocktail Menu

The judges seek to reward innovative and thirst inducing cocktail menus. Both the design and content will be considered.

Winner: 1806 Bar, Melbourne, Australia

Nominees:

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1806 Bar

Melbourne

Australia

Bayswater Brasserie

Sydney

Australia

Death & Company

New York, NY

United States

Doheney

Downtown Los Angeles, CA

United States

The Drawing Room

Chicago, IL

United States

Bar Italia

Vienna

Austria

Pegu Club

New York, NY

United States

Ruby

Copenhagen

Denmark

Tailor Restaurant

New York, NY

United States

Best Drinks Brand Representative/Brand Ambassador

This award recognizes the importance of personality in the promotion of drinks brands.

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Winner: Xavier Padovani - Hendricks Gin

Nominees:

Jacques Bezendenhout

Partida Tequila

United States

Julio Bermejo

Tequila

United States

Jason Crawley

Maximum

Australia

Phil Duff

Bois

Global

John Gakuru

Sagatiba

Global

H. Joseph Ehrmann

Square One Organic Vodka

United States

Diego Loret de Mola

Bar Sol Pisco

United States

Stuart McCluskey

Miller's Gin

United Kingdom

Xavier Padovani

Hendricks

Global

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Charlotte Voisey

William Grant

United States



Helen David Lifetime Achievement Award

The impact of some people have on the general cocktail community can span over the course of many years. There are individuals who have worked long and hard to change the industry and educate the public. This award is to provide special recognition to these individuals and the wonderful efforts they have undertaken.

Winner: Dale DeGroff - King Cocktail

Nominees:

Salvatore Calabrese

Mixologist, Writer, Bar Owner

Dale DeGroff

Mixologist & Writer

Peter Dorelli

Formerly of the Savoy, London

Philip Hills

Founder of the Scotch Malt Whiskey Society

Desmond Payne

Master Distiller Beefeater Gin

Brian Rea

Bararchives.com, former 21 Club Bartender, etc.

Gary Regan

Mixologist & Writer

Luxury Experience Magazine would like to congratulate all of the nominees and the winners of the Tales of the Cocktail 2008 Spirit Awards!

Read other articles on the **Tales of the Cocktail** and **New Orleans** in the **Destinations, Hotels and**

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Resorts, Restaurants, Chefs' Recipes, [Liquor Cabinet](#), and [Luxury Products: Gifts](#) sections.



For information on the **Tales of the Cocktail**, please visit the website: www.TalesoftheCocktail.com. For information on **New Orleans**, please visit the website: www.NewOrleansCVB.com.

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