

APOLLO INN

Media Release

Thursday 8th June

A NEW COCKTAIL BAR FOR MELBOURNE

Andrew McConnell and Jo McGann will open Apollo Inn, their first standalone cocktail bar on Tuesday, 13th June.

Located on the ground floor of 165 Flinders Lane, the 1920s neo-renaissance-style building on the corner of Flinders and Hosier Lanes, Apollo Inn is an inviting space that takes its cues from the timeless cocktail bars of Europe and its name from the original public house that once stood on the site of its neighbour, Gimlet at Cavendish House. Apollo Inn will offer a considered cocktail list of old-world classics with new-world sensibility, created by Bar Manager Cameron Parish who will take the lead at Apollo Inn.

Signature cocktails include the *Lucien Gaudin* featuring gin, Campari, dry vermouth, Grand Marnier, and the *Picon Biere*, a blend of house-made amaro and crisp French lager. Like every great cocktail bar, the mark of quality will reside in the martini glass, with four styles to choose from; Dry, Dirty, Gibson, and Café.

“We’re excited to dedicate such a beautiful, intimate space to the refinement of great spirits,” says Andrew McConnell. “It’s a singular focus at Apollo Inn; to ensure that what’s in the glass and on the plate are delicious and benchmark.”

Apollo Inn will offer a selection of wines by the glass and-bottle curated by Trader House beverage director, Leanne Altmann, and access to Gimlet’s extensive cellar. A concise food menu will feature snacks and small dishes designed to accompany the drinks. Prawn and spanner crab club sandwich and a classic beef carpaccio sit alongside shellfish served over ice. And there’s a selection of local and imported cheese and wedges of crème caramel to finish.

Designed by ACME, the architectural team behind Gimlet, the transformation of the space has been extraordinary. “Nestled discreetly behind the façade of McDonald House at 165 Flinders Lane, Apollo Inn whisks patrons away from the bustling laneway into an enchanting realm of intimate revelry,” says ACME’s architect Vince Alafaci. “As you step through its unassuming entrance, a subdued ambiance sets the stage for the main space, where an elongated banquette gracefully contours one wall, while the central bar anchors the other. With cozy seating, the cocktail lounge is inspired by the elegance of the 1950s and exudes an air of exclusivity akin to a members-only establishment, paying homage to the mid-century era and embracing the art of great drinks.”

Open every evening from 5pm to 1am, Apollo Inn encourages walk-in guests with reservations available via apolloinn.bar.

Ends.

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