

Vernick's Lucky Number Seventeen, a variation on the Manhattan.

What's in a Name?

LOCAL MIXOLOGISTS SHARE THE STORIES BEHIND PHILADELPHIA'S MOST CREATIVELY LABELED COCKTAILS. BY ALEXANDRA LESHNER



Barclay Prime

Among the whimsical sips being poured here is the Felix Leiter, named for the American ally of James Bond. It combines Grey Goose La Poire, Death's Door white whisky, and bianco vermouth. Says mixologist Eben Klemm, "The bar at Barclay Prime is totally a place I could imagine Leiter hosting his British friend."

237 S. 18th St., 215-732-7560; barclayprime.com

Ela

"All of our specialty cocktails have been named after songs by Brand New, chef-owner Jason Cichonski's favorite band growing up," says general manager Stacey Lyons. Vodka, blueberry lavender shrub, lemon juice, simple syrup, and club soda make up the Flying at Tree Level, which is garnished with a lemon twist and brandied cherries.

627 S. Third St., 267-687-8512; elaphilly.com

Emmanuelle

Phoebe Esmon and Christian Gaal helm this dark, cozy spot that pours unique handcrafted cocktails. Try the Fickt Nicht mit dem Raketemensch (bonded bourbon, strawberry preserves, balsamic gastrique, green walnut liqueur, Lambrusco, and angostura bitters), named for a bit of dialogue in Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow*.

1052 N. Hancock St., 267-639-2470; drinkemmanuelle.com

The Farmers' Cabinet

Buffalo Trace bourbon, Amaro Nonino, Dolin blanc vermouth de Chambéry, and Green Chartreuse are combined to create the Message in a Bottle. Among the 300-plus empty bottles displayed in the beer hall and around the restaurant, just one contains a message, placed there some time ago, and only a few people know which one.

1113 Walnut St., 215-923-1113; thefarmerscabinet.com

Lemon Hill

"Nothing outside of culinary concerns influences me so much as music," says beverage manager Al Sotack. All Things Move Towards Their End (Landy cognac, Angel's Envy bourbon, Zucca, Carpano, Bénédictine, Green Chartreuse, Peychaud's bitters, and Jerry Thomas bitters) takes its name from a song by Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds.

747 N. 25th St., 215-232-2299; lemonhillphilly.com

MilkBoy Philadelphia

Inspired by MilkBoy's location—next to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital—bar manager Evan Maffiore has dedicated many a cocktail to the neighborhood. The Waiting Room (Frangelico, peppermint schnapps, and coffee) is a favorite among hospital staffers, who often gather for happy hour at 7 AM, when the night shift lets out.

1100 Chestnut St., 215-925-6455; milkboyphilly.com

10 Arts

Stop into 10 Arts for a sip of one of its newest cocktails, inspired by the City of Brotherly Love. The Philadelphian (Rittenhouse rye, sweet vermouth, local maple syrup, black walnut bitters, and fresh lemon juice) is just one of the handcrafted libations devised by mixologist Steve Diaz from locally sourced ingredients.

The Ritz-Carlton, 10 Avenue of the Arts, 215-523-8273; 10arts.com

Valanni

The Sexting cocktail combines Ch@t SMH strawberry vodka, raspberry purée, fresh lemon juice, agave nectar, and basil leaves. "Ch@t SMH markets itself around digital communication," says beverage manager Casey Knecht, "and as a bartender I notice toward the end of the night, many bar patrons are glued to their phones, texting away."

1229 Spruce St., 215-790-9494; valanni.com

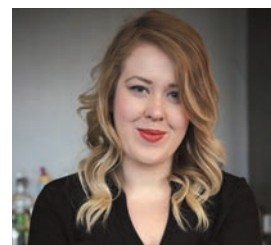
Vernick Food & Drink

House-made rosé vermouth, Old Overholt straight rye whiskey, absinthe, and bitters make up the Lucky Number Seventeen. "The name is inspired by the 17 different ingredients used to flavor this beautiful vermouth," says beverage manager Vincent Stipo. "Lucky you!"

2031 Walnut St., 267-639-6644; vernickphilly.com PS

NAME GAME

Square 1682's lead bartender, **Chauncey Scates**, describes the inspiration behind Mama's Squeeze Box.



"The Pegu Club is one of my favorite classic cocktails because of its dryness and brightness and it's so darn refreshing. Mama's Squeeze Box was inspired by those flavor profiles, but with some added curves from the Carpano Antica and the Pierre Ferrand dry curaçao. The drink is named after the song 'Squeeze Box' by The Who, which is about an accordion, but I love double entendres."

121 S. 17th St., 215-563-5008; square1682.com



Mama's Squeeze Box is both boozy and sophisticated.