

A close-up photograph of a bartender's hands garnishing a drink. The bartender is wearing a white shirt with a dark cuff. They are holding a slice of orange and a cherry, which they are about to place into a glass. The glass is filled with a dark liquid and has a large ice cube. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a bar setting with a bottle of liquor and a glass.

The *secret* is out!

Stop at these Ohio speakeasies.

Like with all restaurants and bars during COVID-19, be sure to call ahead before visiting to ensure locations are open.

BY RICH WARREN

At the candy store in the 1920s Main Street area at Sauder Village, a living history museum and farm in Archbold, visitors may discover that all is not as it seems. The curious who sign up for the Speakeasy experience will learn of the Broken Barrel, a secret destination in Sauder Village that brings life to the historical period of Prohibition. The lucky few will be shown the hidden entrance and get special access into a dimly lit room with a handsomely carved, century-old alderwood bar.



Welcome to the new Speakeasy Experience at Sauder Village, replicating the illicit gathering places where alcohol was served during Prohibition. Bartender David and barback Bobby trade easy banter with their guests while serving flights of four high-end Old Forester bourbons, helping their guests to detect notes of caramel and vanilla and even honeysuckle, cinnamon, and toasted marshmallows.

The process of distilling bourbon is discussed in detail, as well as the history of the Prohibition era. New York City, in particular, didn't give in to Prohibition:

There were up to 100,000 speakeasies operating until Prohibition was repealed. Though the experience lasts approximately an hour, all speakeasy-goers should keep an eye and an ear out — it's not uncommon for police to raid speakeasies, and the **Broken Barrel** is no exception.

Similar speakeasy experiences across Ohio replicate the hidden back-room nature of this bygone era. Like other bars and restaurants statewide, Ohio's speakeasies are reducing their capacity during COVID-19 and asking patrons to wear mask when not drinking or offering cocktails to go.

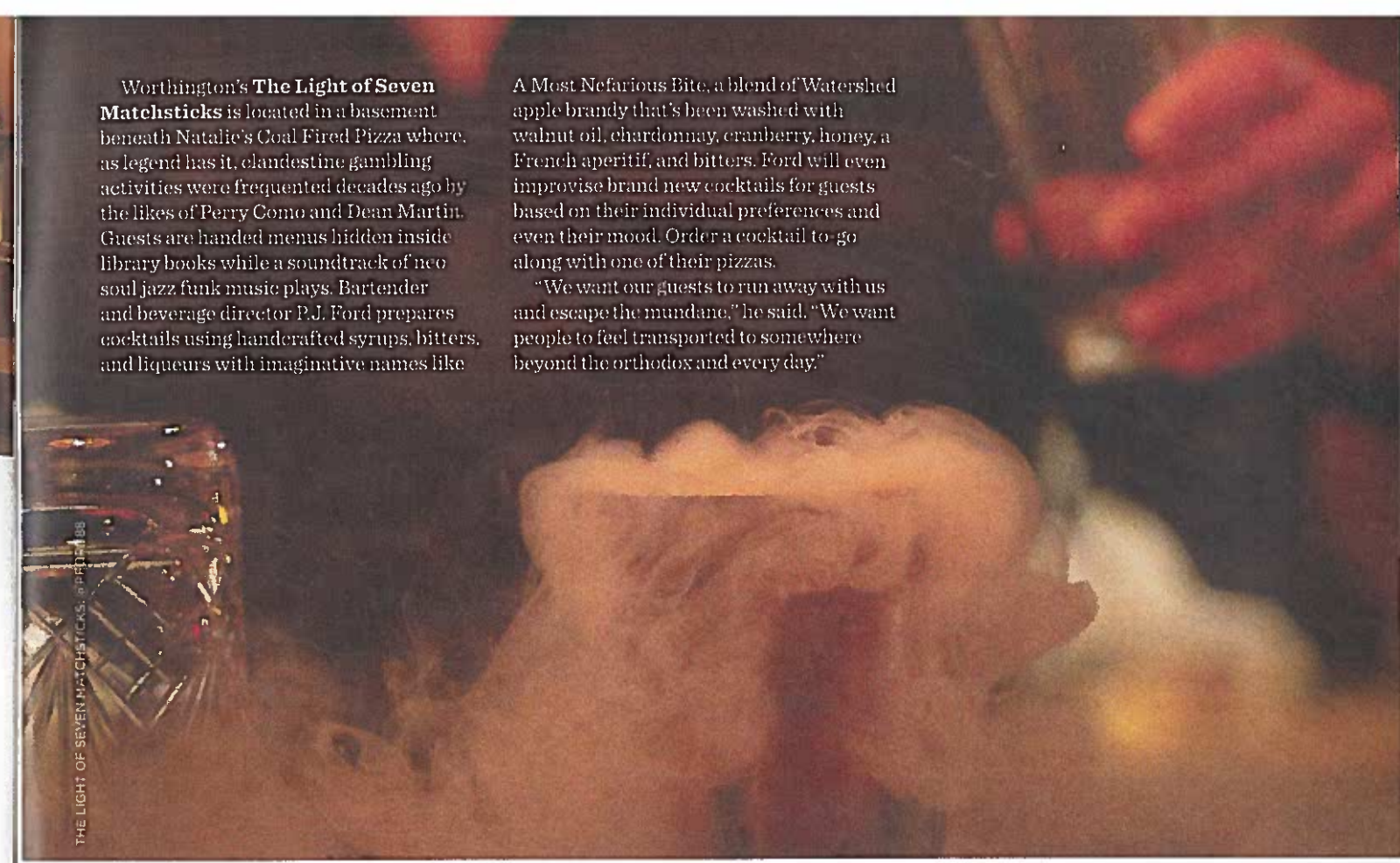


BROKEN BARREL, SAUDER VILLAGE

Worthington's **The Light of Seven Matchsticks** is located in a basement beneath Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza where, as legend has it, clandestine gambling activities were frequented decades ago by the likes of Perry Como and Dean Martin. Guests are handed menus hidden inside library books while a soundtrack of neo soul jazz funk music plays. Bartender and beverage director P.J. Ford prepares cocktails using handcrafted syrups, bitters, and liqueurs with imaginative names like

A Most Nefarious Bite, a blend of Watershed apple brandy that's been washed with walnut oil, chardonnay, cranberry, honey, a French aperitif, and bitters. Ford will even improvise brand new cocktails for guests based on their individual preferences and even their mood. Order a cocktail to-go along with one of their pizzas.

"We want our guests to run away with us and escape the mundane," he said. "We want people to feel transported to somewhere beyond the orthodox and every day."



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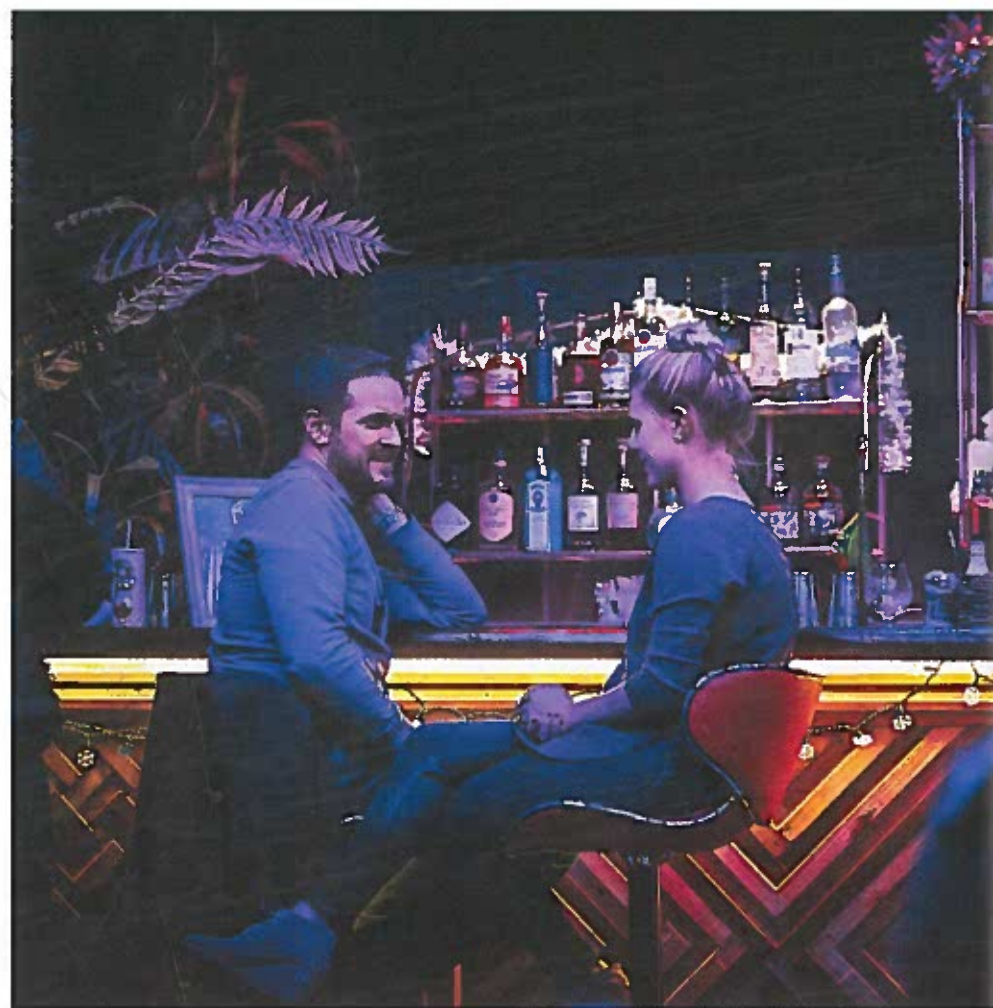
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Visitors to the **Sacred Palm** speakeasy in Columbus have a similarly cool experience, quite literally, since they enter through a beer cooler located in the basement beneath **Mikey's Late Night Slice**. Once inside, they are greeted with a visually stunning Tiki-inspired space with black light and neon. According to owner Mike Sorboro, "We put a ton of effort into creating an eye-popping atmosphere." The cocktail menu focuses on largely rum-based cocktails like Hurricanes, Zombies, and most popular of all, Painkillers. "Our drinks for the most part reflect a traditional Tiki experience," Sorboro said.



SAND HOLLOW SPEAKEASY: SAND HOLLOW SPEAKEASY

At the **Sand Hollow Speakeasy** in Newark, visitors must give a pre-obtained password to enter a space lined with rough-hewn cherry wood decorated with items like Al Capone's mugshot and vintage photos of speakeasy raids and marches of members of the Anti-Saloon League. They can even don 1920s costumes and have photos of themselves taken sitting in a claw-footed bathtub once used to make bathtub gin. Owner Jim Young offers an array of Prohibition-era whiskeys that he

encourages patrons to drink either neat or mixed in cocktails like an Old Fashioned. Elsewhere across Ohio, a speakeasy at **The Canton Brewing Company** is available for rental. Likewise, a similar space beneath the **Crazy Fox Saloon** in Bucyrus is available for groups to rent. Back in the 1930s, it was an actual speakeasy frequented by Al Capone himself, who entered and exited through underground tunnels. You can even sit in the very booth where he sat!



MIKEY'S LATE NIGHT SLICE: KYLE ALANE PHOTOGRAPHY; SACRED PALM: DRIK; SACRED PALM: SACRED PALM BAR; BLAKE FEEDLEMAN

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