

Client: Donnelly Group

Description: Tales of the Cocktail Awards Nomination

Best International High-Volume Cocktail Bar

Over the past decade and a half, Vancouver's Donnelly Group has been one of the key drivers of the city's cocktail culture. Balancing the demands of being one of the country's largest independent hospitality companies with a commitment to cocktail excellence and innovation, Donnelly Group has opened and operated some of Canada's most progressive cocktail bars, has incubated a deep cocktail culture in its group of pubs, and has trained and developed an enormous number of bartenders who have gone on to leadership roles across Donnelly Group, Vancouver, and Canada.

In 2016, Donnelly Group opened their first Toronto establishment and have opened several more since then, including **Gift Shop**, an 18-seat hideaway recently named one of the Top 50 Cocktail Bars in Canada.

In April 2018, the Donnelly Group team took on an entirely different project as they threw the doors open on **Walrus Pub & Beer Hall**, a multi-level 700-capacity showpiece located in the heart of Toronto's financial district skyscrapers. The showpiece location challenged the bar and beverage team, led by director Trevor Kallies, to entertain new ideas and approaches and they found one in the oldest place: the martini.

Within Walrus lies **The Ivory Room**, a completely modern reimagining of the martini bar and martini list. A months-long development process saw the team dig deep into the history of the martini, stripping away the decades of neon-coloured paint to reveal the essential components and technique of the classic. The Ivory Room martini list includes over 20 variations on the classic, each one balanced, accessible, and precisely made.

Dark spirits and non-martini drinks still have their place at Walrus with seasonal cocktail lists containing a tight selection of original creations alongside carefully curated options from some of the best cocktail bars in the world.

in the end, what still matters most is what is in the glass, and the team at Walrus delivers time after time thanks to intensive staff training, outstanding systems, and a laser-sharp focus on creating cocktail excellence every time.