

What's behind the 'Hamilton'-inspired cocktail



The Capital is a bourbon-based cocktail inspired by the musical "Hamilton." It's being served at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts during the show's run. (Ryan Gillespie / Orlando Sentinel)



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You want to drink like a Founding Father?

To be fair, we can assume Alexander Hamilton didn't have access to Ocean Spray sour mix. But the specialty cocktail currently on offer at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts is inspired by the protagonist of the musical "Hamilton," onstage through Feb. 10.



To be specific, a center spokeswoman says, “The Capital” cocktail is an homage to the battle between Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson over where to locate the new nation’s capital city. Fans know that decision — which resulted in Washington, D.C. — is made during the song “The Room Where It Happened.”

The Capital is a mix of Rough Rider straight bourbon whiskey, velvet falernum, Cocchi Americano, Ocean Spray Sour Mix and orange-blossom honey.

Here’s how the ingredients came to be: Rough Rider is made in Baiting Hollow, N.Y. — just outside of New York City, the nation’s original capital and the location Hamilton preferred. Orange-blossom honey, of course, comes from the South, where Jefferson wanted the capital to be.

Jefferson got his way, as we know, but in return Hamilton received extraordinary powers to shape the nation’s finances and consolidate federal authority over the states.

Falernum also has a nod to Hamilton: It’s a spiced, sweet syrup used in the Caribbean, where the country’s first treasury secretary was born. And although Cocchi Americano is an Italian-made wine, it has “American” right there in the name.

So how does The Capital taste? A bourbon-drinking colleague said it falls in the whiskey-sour family of drinks, though perhaps more sugary. Also, you might want to stick to just one: He also described the drink, which is premixed and served on draft, as “sneaky strong.”

The Capital costs \$15 and is available at Harry’s Bar on the main floor, the Craft Bar on level 2, Ravago on level 3 and the fourth-floor Elevator Bar.

Cheers.

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