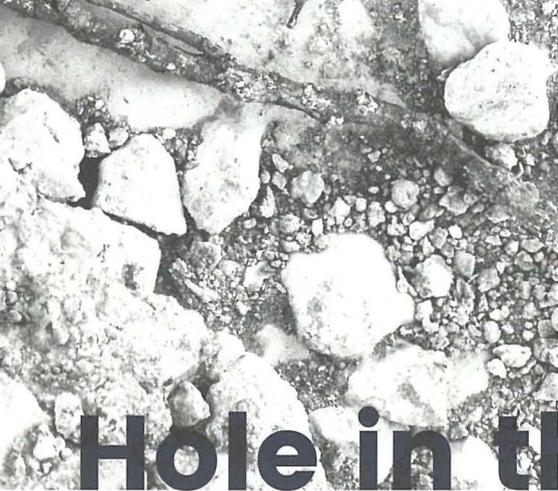


# Not Your Average Bars

ARTICLE BY  
Laura Schembri

**Bored of your  
everyday  
monotonous life?  
Why not shake up  
your routine and  
check out these  
hotspots.**



# Hole in the Wall

## Welcoming all Misfits

Operating since 1922, this former stable was originally a literal hole in the wall, used to sell wine in buckets from large vats. Luckily, its potential was not lost to generations, as it has become a newly cemented nightlife hub. Brothers Ian and David Schranz stumbled across an advert selling the bar on Facebook by chance and the rest is history. The name stems from the bar's former clientele of pilots and the cabin staff of British Airways, who referred to going to the bar as going "down the hole".

The design of the establishment is unlike any other in Malta, which features a small stage offering a creative space for local artists such as musicians, poets and writers. With Miguel Cachia from Panda Design at the helm of the interior, the owners aimed to emulate a relaxed vibe similar to cafés found in Copenhagen and Berlin, which is also where Ian and a co-worker lived. This spawned their signature drink, the Mexikaner.

Hole in the Wall remains faithful to its historical routes, by incorporating classic

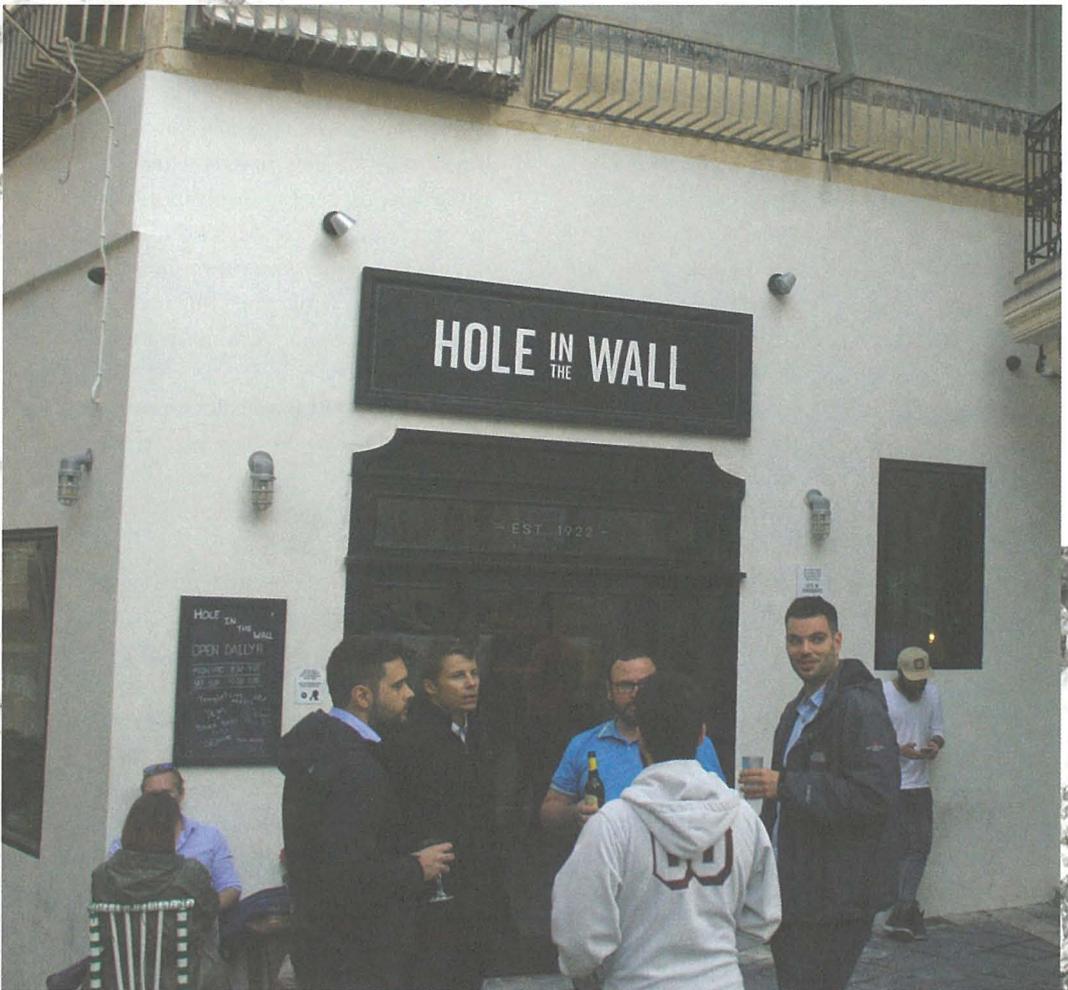
elements of a typical Maltese bar such as wooden hand-drawn signage and old Maltese tiles. They also pay tribute to the bar's heritage by featuring a wall dedicated to its history. The now well-known caricature wall was born out of an exhausted budget. Ian decided to get creative when funds were low by getting inspiration from his everyday life. He decided to draw his daughter, mother and other people behind the bar along with other Internet images; however, it is still a work in progress.

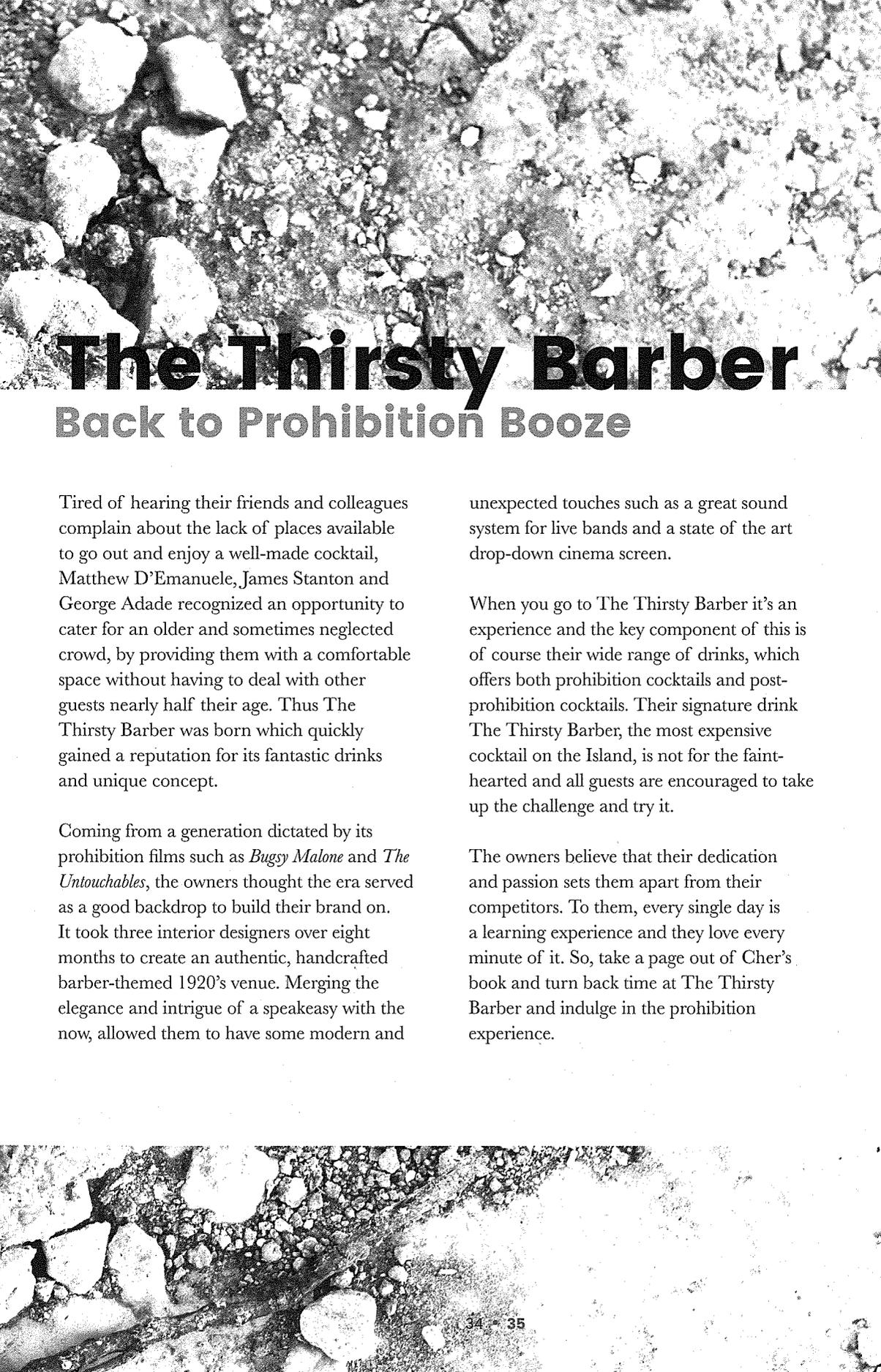
Hole in the Wall is a distinct establishment in the Maltese nightlife landscape that has already made a name for itself by attracting a cool eclectic crowd. The owners credit all its success to having the best staff and simply enjoying what they do. Next on the agenda is launching their café in the mornings, described as a coffee shop meets art-workshop, keeping in tune with their open-door policy for all things creative. Whether you're interested in partaking in a chilled night filled with alternative music or just looking for a new creative den, Hole in the Wall has got you covered.



# Its potential was not lost to generations

99





# The Thirsty Barber

## Back to Prohibition Booze

Tired of hearing their friends and colleagues complain about the lack of places available to go out and enjoy a well-made cocktail, Matthew D'Emanuele, James Stanton and George Adade recognized an opportunity to cater for an older and sometimes neglected crowd, by providing them with a comfortable space without having to deal with other guests nearly half their age. Thus The Thirsty Barber was born which quickly gained a reputation for its fantastic drinks and unique concept.

Coming from a generation dictated by its prohibition films such as *Bugsy Malone* and *The Untouchables*, the owners thought the era served as a good backdrop to build their brand on. It took three interior designers over eight months to create an authentic, handcrafted barber-themed 1920's venue. Merging the elegance and intrigue of a speakeasy with the now, allowed them to have some modern and

unexpected touches such as a great sound system for live bands and a state of the art drop-down cinema screen.

When you go to The Thirsty Barber it's an experience and the key component of this is of course their wide range of drinks, which offers both prohibition cocktails and post-prohibition cocktails. Their signature drink The Thirsty Barber, the most expensive cocktail on the Island, is not for the faint-hearted and all guests are encouraged to take up the challenge and try it.

The owners believe that their dedication and passion sets them apart from their competitors. To them, every single day is a learning experience and they love every minute of it. So, take a page out of Cher's book and turn back time at The Thirsty Barber and indulge in the prohibition experience.



**Every single day is a  
learning experience and  
they love every minute of it**

*The Thirsty Barber* 99