

What are the owners backgrounds in regards to the bar industry? Do they own any other venues?

The 4 owners each have extensive bar and hospitality experience and were already established in the Melbourne laneway bar scene with their previous venture Double Happiness, which set a new standard in intimate cocktail service. The managing partner, Tom Rattigan, having worked in and managed a range of venues around Melbourne and London, felt the time was right to make his presence felt through a venture of his own. Drawing on the skills and experience of his partners - Marcus Ward of The Prince in St Kilda, sinophile medic Dashiell Gantner and his brother Vallejo Gantner of Speigeltent fame – Tom took a broken down tailor's studio on a forgotten laneway in Melbourne and turned it into one of the most acclaimed off-the-beaten-path bars in Melbourne.

What was the inspiration behind New Gold Mountain and it's interior design?

Our location on the cusp of Chinatown lends itself naturally to an oriental-meets-occidental motif. The space itself is compact, set over 2 intimate levels of Melbourne red-brick heritage. The refurb was designed by "up-and-comer" Melbourne architect Cassandra Fahey, who took a creative interpretation of her brief to produce a contemporary opium den capturing the decadence of colonial-era Shanghai, blended seamlessly with a New World vision of East-Asian fusion. The result is an absolutely unique interior design that comfortably envelops the customer, whether it is whilst sitting by one of the 2 open fires decorated with signs of the Chinese zodiac or in the suffusing rosé glow of the upstairs Poppy Room.

What's the capacity? And what nights is it reached?

Intimacy and service are ensured by New Gold Mountain's limited seated capacity of 70-80 people. The bar is open 7 nights per week, and any night will find customers tucked away in one of the secluded alcoves. As is normal for CBD bars, Friday and Saturday nights are the busier times; if seating is not available there is limited bar service, or we will take a mobile number to let people know when their table is ready.

What's the story behind the name NGM and is there any relation to the bar?

The name is a reference to the Chinese Gold-Rush era name for Melbourne, which was the next big gold field after San Francisco (which Chinese still call "Old Gold Mountain"). The name also points to a pre-communist era China, where good service was worth its weight (as opposed to the Double Happiness period, where equitable provision to the masses is paramount). That's definitely not to say that New Gold Mountain's door policy is preferential in any way; a better description would be "exclusively equitable": ie we're open till 5am to all comers provided we have a comfy seat at a table for them.

What sets NGM apart from the rest (the biggest selling point: ie. interior design, drinks list, staff, etc)

New Gold Mountain (or 新金山 in Chinese) sets a new standard in grown up late night cocktail service. It is part speakeasy, part opium den, part deluxe lounge room. Tom's and manager Daniel's Willett unrelenting attention to detail has produced a wine list and a specialty cocktail list that are the envy of venues across Melbourne, and the staff can of course mix any mouthwatering traditional cocktail.

Is there a specialty cocktail?

All of the Sours are unique to New Gold Mountain, and are a result of Dave Fisher's (Manager, Double Happiness) tireless experimentation with new and traditional flavours. My personal favourite is the No. 2.

What forms of music are played? (Djs, Cds, etc)

New Gold Mountain is not a live music venue, but Tom has again pulled together an unlikely mix ranging from Cotton Club era swing jazz to Nouvelle Vague-Joy Division revisions.