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CONNACHT
HOSPITALITY GROUP

Autumn 2021 - Edition #2



CONNACHT

HOSPITALITY GROUP



RESIDENCE HOTEL

THE
CONNACHT
HOTEL GALWAY



FORSTER COURT
HOTEL

1520
BAR

AN PÚCÁN



active
FITNESS & LEISURE



GALWAY BAY
golf resort

SOLO

the
CONNACHT
CRUISER



www.chgl.ie

We've got Galway covered! | Tá Gaillimh clúdaithe againn!

We are working with our sustainability partner **hometree.ie**
and we will plant trees to offset the production of this magazine.





Ór
Jewellery

42 William Street Galway Ireland
www.orejewellery.ie

orireland

Ór Jewellery

the everyday NEGRONI

The Connacht Hospitality Everyday Negroni, created by our head mixologist Pa Burke, using Beefeater Gin infused with coffee for 24 hours, Lillet Rose, Campari Aperol and Amaretto. Enjoy in any of the Connacht Hospitality Group properties this Summer - €13.00







"Spritz N Giggles" - A spritzzy sipper in An Púcán.



SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE
AT AN PÚCÁN

AN PÚCÁN DAY OR NIGHT

An Púcán Galway is a genuine, great craic, proud to be Irish Bar. We are located on the corner of Eyre Square in the beating heart of Galway city centre. With a fantastic team of chefs and wonderful staff, An Púcán is a great place to eat or party morning, noon and night. An Púcán offers remarkable whiskeys, delicious cocktails, all day dining serving the best of local and Irish cuisine, big screens, incredible

events and the best Beer Garden in the West.

Our main focus has always been our customers and always trying to come up with new and innovative ideas to make the customer's experience more enjoyable. This multi award winning bar which has one of the largest social media followings of any bar in the world is renowned for its fast friendly service and terrific atmosphere.

From the outside we look unassuming, but as soon as you walk through the doors we open up to offer something for everyone - from the local's favourite at the front to the back bar which is the home of our live music stage, to our oasis in the city - the epic "*Heineken Green Room*", our award winning garden area which is guaranteed to impress and delight patrons all year round.



Adam Roberts

GENERAL MANAGER AN PÚCÁN

What do you enjoy most about your work?

I think if you asked anybody in the industry what they love about it they will always tell you that no two days are the same and that is true. I myself would find it very hard to work a 9-5 Monday to Friday job, I can't sit still. In this job you are up and active, always running around bouncing off the form of the customers and staff. If you can be on the same level as your clientele, you can make them feel more welcome. If you can provide a happy, safe and enjoyable working environment for your staff, then you can be confident that everybody's day will be a lot quicker.

I enjoy coming in to work every day and seeing a whole team of young, energetic and hard working people. These are people who have come off the back of a major change in the industry over the last 18 months and have adapted to everything thrown at them.

Some are going through college and paying bills, others are looking at this as a career. In all aspects of the industry you never know what challenges you are going to face each day.

How do you see the industry changing moving forward?

The service industry and hospitality sector is going to be very challenging over the next few years and there is a lack of appeal since covid struck. Recruitment is going to be a major challenge and the government need to introduce extra supports to entice people back to the industry. Training and development programs for both chefs and trainee managers would be a massive help to the sector.

The drinking culture in Ireland has changed since the pandemic hit, the days of shoulder to shoulder drinking is now a distant memory and the bar counter, instead of a place of old tales, is now a sanitizing station. Table service is going to be with us for a long time, the public habits have changed and we are now used to having a meal with our drink. The average spend has also gone up. People now opt for quality over quantity after being locked down for so long. Cocktails have gone through the roof and this has had a massive impact on all aspects of the trade, from the bars and restaurants to the suppliers and wholesalers.

Matthew Fraser

WHISKEY AMBASSADOR
AN PÚCÁN



What's your favourite whiskey?

That's a tough question, with varying price points and styles I feel there's a whiskey for every occasion and mood. However, if I had to pick an affordable one that can hold its own against more premium whiskeys it would be the Green Spot Chateau Leoville Barton. Initially matured in the Irish Whiskey staples of Bourbon and Sherry casks, it's then finished in Bordeaux wine casks which adds a lovely fleshy red fruit taste to the traditional pot still spice and sweet vanilla from the bourbon. Finishing with the tannic hallmarks of a full-bodied red wine.

How did the An Púcán Whiskey Society come about?

During lock-down we were looking for ways to keep our brand and our customers active and happy. With the explosion of zoom meetings and at home tastings we thought what better way to capitalise on this than launch a Whiskey Society. With people bored at home missing the pub and the *craic* we managed to bring the atmosphere of our front bar to people's living rooms. Our friends in Irish Distillers, Bushmills, Tullamore D.E.W. and Teeling along with our Group

Operations Manager Niall Beatty have been so helpful and informative with a once monthly online tasting of a broad spectrum of whiskeys. We've had positive feedback and are helping spread the enjoyment and knowledge behind our little island's storied history in the spirits business. We can't wait to have our first in house tasting in the upcoming months.

What can the history of whiskey teach us?

I think it can teach us that with all challenges there is light at the end of the tunnel and that as a nation we're resilient and inventive. Irish Whiskey went from being the most dominant spirit in the world to almost becoming an afterthought due to the malt tax and prohibition. Scotch Whisky took over and became the prominent whisk(e)y worldwide. However, over the last 20 years we have been clawing this back and now Irish Whiskey is one of the fastest growing spirits in the market and that is due to the entrepreneurial spirit of our country and unique and innovative ways we are distilling and maturing whiskey.







Tom Joyce

**HEAD CHEF
AN PÚCÁN**

What was your most memorable meal?

There have been many but the one that stands out in recent times has to be the Lady Helen restaurant in Mount Juliet. Everything was perfection! The food and just as important the staff were amazing. Every dish was a picture and the food tasted as you imagined it would.

Most important thing you learned in culinary school?

"Preparation is the key to Success."

Culinary college gives you the basic building blocks to be a professional within the hospitality industry, however what makes you or defines you in my opinion, is the knowledge and experience you gain while working in the industry,

from mentors, colleagues and friends. As the head chef of An Púcán I am lucky to be working with a fantastic team and my motto is this:

"it's the people who work and stand beside you in the kitchen that makes a great team."

If I had to cook one meal for the rest of my life, what would it be?

Any dish that consists of fish or shellfish shared with family and friends and enjoyed with a nice glass of wine!



An Púcán "Eat N'Mess" - A staff favourite.



SCAN TO READ MORE OR ENQUIRE

meet *in style*

If you are looking for meeting rooms or a conference venue in Galway City, look no further than the newly refurbished Connacht Hotel.

Our dedicated meeting and events team are here to assist you in planning your next meeting or conference in Galway. From your initial enquiry, throughout planning, setup on the day and post event follow up - the level of customer care sets The Connacht Hotel apart.

All of our function rooms are beautiful, clean and comfortable, featuring natural light, individual air conditioning and dimmable

lighting. We have a range of function spaces available, all with different seating capacities. All rooms at The Connacht include access to audio visual equipment and high speed internet.

For some extra appeal, take advantage of our fantastic hotel facilities. We can assist with group accommodation, offering discounted rates to delegates attending an event in-house.

All guests have access to Bar Solo and our 24 hour Gym and Leisure Centre Active 24 Fitness. The Connacht Hotel has ample free parking for all those attending your meetings or event.



GALWAY BAY *golf resort*



SCAN ME TO FIND OUT MORE



Galway Bay Golf Resort in Renville, Oranmore, is becoming one of Ireland's top Golf Courses. Already officially rated as the best Parkland in Connacht, the ocean-hugging course is climbing in every one of Ireland's Top 100 Course Rankings.

A very welcome addition to the resort is the new *Trackman Room*. Located inside the clubhouse, it is a dedicated room that allows golfers to hit balls against a digitally projected screen whilst being coached by Galway Bay's Head PGA Professional, Dara Ford.

Whilst Galway Bay has a superb outdoor training facility, including the Driving Range, chipping greens and putting green, *Trackman* can give golfers a multitude of stats whilst training indoors. The insights include golfers' ball speed, spin rate, launch angle and carry, among others. Whilst being coached, this allows Dara

the ability to make adjustments to their swing in order to improve their game, and the huge benefit is that they can see these improvements in real time.

The *Trackman Room* can also be used recreationally, where a wide range of some of the best Golf Courses in the world can be played for a bit of fun. You can tee it up in *Adare Manor*, *Le Golf National* outside Paris, *Royal Portrush*, *Lahinch* plus many famous courses in the States. A 40 minute lesson with Dara can be booked for only €50 in the *Trackman Room*.

The room can also be booked without coaching – one hour costs only €50. When conditions allow the room will be available to hire for groups, the perfect evening to enjoy a bit of friendly competition with a few friends over some drinks playing some of the best courses in the world!



SCAN TO READ MORE

The background image shows the interior of a motorhome. At the top, there is a wooden bunk bed with a white pillow and a stuffed animal. Below the bunk, a large window looks out onto a bright outdoor area. In the foreground, there are two large, light-colored leather armchairs facing each other, with a control panel and storage unit between them. To the right, a table with a glass top and some items on it is visible. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

the CONNACHT CRUISER

The Connacht Cruiser is an ideal option for those looking for a stay with a difference in Galway City. The state-of-the-art motorhome is equipped 6 flat screen TV's including an Exterior 39" LED TV. An en-suite master bedroom with Denver Mattress King size bed Power drop-down hide-away overhead bunk with Cotton Cloud mattress. Two sleep pods ideal for kids and additional 2 Double beds stored stylishly in the living area. The Kitchen is equipped with an Electric induction cooktop, full sized Fridge Freezer, Washer & dryer, and a Stainless steel over-the-range convection microwave oven.

Perfect for groups of up to 8 people,

with your own private outdoor area, you can relax and unwind in your private courtyard area and even catch up on a movie or show on the outdoor LED tv. One of the benefits of staying on the Connacht Cruiser is that you also have access to the facilities of the Connacht Hotel, including Leisure Club, Friendly Fellows Kids Club and of course Bar Solo and Rubens Restaurant to enjoy fantastic food and drinks here in The Connacht. It really is the ideal scenario your own unique accommodation on the grounds of an award-winning hotel, a short drive from countless tourists attractions in Galway city.



The Claddagh Bramble - available at 1520.



SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE AT 1520





HISTORY OF 1520

During the early 1400s, 14 families came to dominate politics and trade in the town. Within the walls, the fourteen merchant families, today known as the *Tribes*, controlled trade and political life for most of the medieval period. During the next 100 years, Galway became a centre of trade. Ships carried cargos of fish, wool and leather as far away as France and Spain. Fruit, oil and wine were imported into Galway.

1520 is inspired by the 14 families from the medieval Irish lower classes who rose to become Galway's prime merchant

families. As the story goes 1520 Bar holds a huge chunk of this history with records showing that the original wall of the city built by the tribes runs directly through the bar and also the building was once a 16th century Carmelite Convent that was donated to the sisters by the mayor of Galway, John Kirwan a member of the Kirwin Tribe, the oldest of all the 14, and the only proven 100% Irish Gaelic tribe. They were one of the most respected of the Tribes given their long lineage and consistent success in all areas.



HYDE



SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE AT HYDE

HYDE Bar and Gin Parlour - Galway's Most "instagrammable" bar and home to Ireland's largest Gin collection and some of Galway's tastiest cocktails.

Hyde Bar and Gin Parlour is not only a social media dream, it also boasts Ireland's largest Gin Collection, with over 630 gins from around the world, including all your favourite. HYDE Bar has acquired an impressive reputation for cocktails and

food and has fast become one of the most popular bars in Galway to enjoy a craft cocktail, with a talented team of mixologists and an eclectic cocktail menu which features some old favourites and some exciting fresh new options.



The Tiki section on the new HYDE cocktail menu has proven to be very popular. Pictured above is the Aku Aku (left) and a Mai Tai (right).

NEW

GUINNESS 0.0%

**ALL THE TASTE.
ZERO ALCOHOL.**



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