

Colony Club Hotel's Rum Vault gives guests unique experience

By Krystal Penny Bowen

With aromatic rums, delicious Barbadian inspired cuisine, an intimate setting, local crafted furniture and nostalgic black and white photographs, the Colony Club Hotel's Rum Vault gives visitors a unique experience.

Director of Operations of the Elegant Hotels Barbados, Gayle Talma explained that this year marked Colony Club's 70th anniversary and the Rum Vault was launched during this milestone. She added that Colony Club is one of the oldest hotels operating in Barbados and has a rich history which makes it suited for the establishment of Rum Vault.

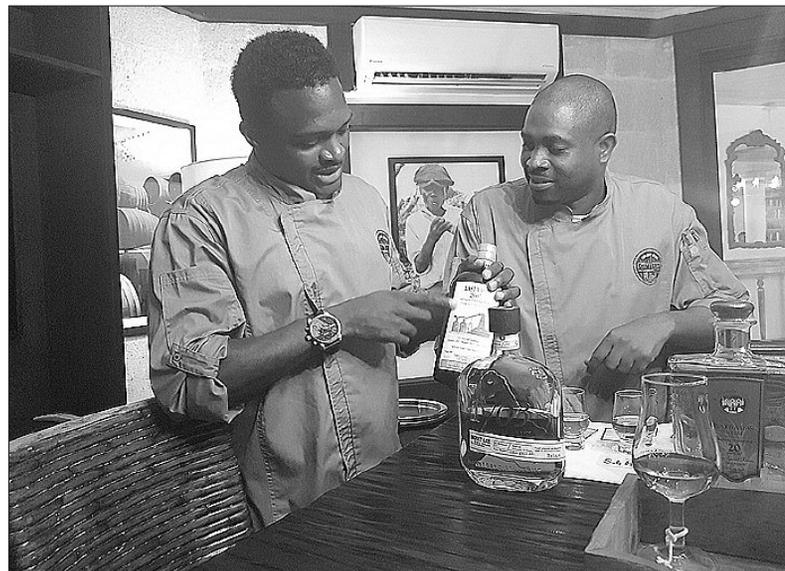
According to Director of Operations, the Rum Vault which is located near the reception area was once a library and a business centre. However, as business changed, the hotel has adjusted.

"As you know hotels move on. The business centre one time would be full of people on their computer but now everybody is on their phones. As things changed, we changed and we have to look for new things to give our guests so we took this space and converted it into a rum vault," said Talma.

During the media launch on Monday, Talma explained that the Rum Vault has 150 rums and the hotel worked with some of the rum refineries in Barbados, including R L Seale and Mount Gay Distilleries and global rum ambassador Ian Burrell. She noted that Burrell assisted the hotel with created a rum list that is not only in Barbados but global.

A vast selection of rum

Talma highlighted that in the vault guests will have an opportunity to learn about rum from Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia and other neighbouring islands,



From left, Rum Ambassadors for the newly opened Elegant Hotels' Colony Club Rum Vault, Shane McClean and Corey Sobers talk about the award winning Barbadian rums found there during the media launch on Monday.

Central and South America as well as destinations like Australia, Mauritius, Fiji and Japan.

The Hotel resident Rum Ambassador and 2018's Barbados Bartender of the Year, Shane McClean gave a brief presentation on some of Barbados best rums and created a special cocktail. He will work with another resident Rum Ambassador, Corey Sobers. With a specific emphasis on the experience in the Rum Vault, the hotel has created a schedule of events for their guests. These include "Storied Rum Dinner" on Fridays, "Kill Devil Vault Tapas" on Saturdays, "Tales from the Vault" on Mondays and "Rum and Chocolate Pairing" on Wednesdays. Additionally, the hotel will have rum tasting flights available during Vault opening hours.

During the event, members of the media got an opportunity to sample some of the dishes on the Rum Vault menus which included golden apple infused pork belly and scotch bonnet chocolate. Vault Chef at Colony Club, Wayne Maynard told the

media that the dishes served in the vault are made with local and Caribbean flavours which are paired with rum.



The best local rums are showcased in the recently launched Colony Club Rum Vault in St. James.



From left: Vault Chef at the Colony Club Hotel, Wayne Maynard shows Director of Operations at Elegant Hotels Barbados, Gayle Talma the local vegetables used to create one of his dishes during the media launch of the hotel's Rum Vault on Monday.

Bradshaw: Task force on males in tertiary institutions needed

EDUCATION Minister, Santia Bradshaw says she would like to set up a taskforce to look at why more males were not enrolling in tertiary institutions.

Her comments came while giving the feature address at last Saturday's Barbados Community College (BCC) 45th graduation ceremony at the Garfield Sobers Sports Complex.

During this ceremony, BCC's Acting Principal, Cheryl Weekes disclosed that for the academic year 2017 to 2018 the student enrolment was 3098. Of this, she said there were "1103 males, which represents 36 per cent, and 1 905 females, representing 64 per cent."

The Education Minister described the existing gender

imbalance at the tertiary institution as "a crisis that has been passed on from administration to administration over the last three decades." She further said she wanted it to stop.

"We have to find a solution to the disengagement of males across the post-secondary sector and I would like therefore to set up a taskforce to look at

this gender disparity that is evident across the Caribbean region. Our males must no longer be the de facto second class citizen which is systematically institutionalised and we cannot continue to hope that the trend will arrest itself and rebalance."

Bradshaw added she would "like to have representation on

this team from all tertiary institutions in Barbados and the public must be part of the solution. I will ask the Higher Education Development Unit of the Ministry of Education to lead this team and to prepare a report that cabinet can examine before the end of the cabinet year. This is a critical mission." (MG)