



a stylish night out

Kate Justice allows herself to be seduced by the handcrafted cocktails at D'Fly Cheltenham, the ultimate destination for any drinks lover...

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I don't usually associate Cheltenham with Hollywood, but after my night out at D'Fly I now see the whole town in an entirely more showbiz light. The bar and restaurant ooze exclusivity, while somehow managing to remain welcoming and so very comfortable. It feels like the sort of place you can almost move into (and we nearly did). The staff are confident and charming and very well organised. D'Fly will give you a slick and highly stylish night out, stacked with prestige – whoever you are.


Myself and three of my BFFs were there for a night of cocktails and Sushi. All being from the country, there were murmurings of concern over whether or not we would be grand enough for a place as snazzy as D'Fly – we need not have worried, it is completely unpretentious. The host is casual, yet professional; an ethos that seeps from the walls. From the Asian décor to the choice of ambient music, everything feels uncontrived. The sense of occasion you get when you walk in is honest and natural.

We started the evening with a round of cocktails. With Dean Simpson at the helm of the bar, you are in very good hands – the guy just has to look at a bottle of vodka and it jumps into something utterly delicate and unbearably moreish. Sarah and I began with The Fly's Cooler (£7.50) – a delicious creation of Passion Fruit Vodka, Lemongrass, Lemon Juice, homemade Jasmine Tea Syrup, hints of Elderflower and soda. Served in a long glass (long, short or martini style... everything is clearly labelled in the menu) and with fresh lemongrass as a garnish, we were in heaven. A combination of flavours you could not hope to recreate at home and as refreshing as fruit juice, this was an immense way to inaugurate the night.

Tracy and Monique went for a Wonderberry Fizz (£7.50): Berry infused Rum, homemade Pomegranate Grenadine and Raspberry Liqueur and a splash of Prosecco. Equally as delighted with their unique drinks, we asked Karl, our host to choose the next round.

The award winning Raimundo Gin Fix (£7.50) arrived with a flourish: Bombay Sapphire (all the spirits stocked are premium and top quality), Citrus, homemade Apple, Pear, Rhubarb and Cinnamon Syrup with Rhubarb Bitters. Every drink is staggeringly individual and a work of art. We moved on to White Rabbit with Cranberry infused Makers Mark and Maraschino Liqueur and then to Stone Fruit Sour with Tanqueray Gin, Apricot Jam and Egg White!

It was around this point in the evening, Karl brought out the Sushi plate (£17.50). It was absolutely superb. Tracy declared it the best Sushi she'd ever had. The freshness and tenderness was astounding and Monique likened the salmon to butter. With so many other delicacies on the menu it was remarkable how the kitchen managed to specialise so expertly. We also indulged in a D'fly Dragon Roll (£10). Go there now and have one – you will come out smiling. ‘Fresh’ was a word repeated often... and later when we enjoyed more snacks (to soak up the cocktails), Sarah said she couldn't imagine a more perfect selection of immaculately prepared food.

Convinced of mastery in the kitchen and a world class bar, we felt very much ‘Sex In The City’; being waited on in our plush surroundings. Every single drink is so extraordinarily unique, it's not hard to see why D'Fly has the best cocktail bar in the South West... and having drunk them all over the world, from Covent Garden to San Francisco Bay, for me, this is my current number one. 

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