



The Airpark pours it on when it comes to beverage programs
By Lauren Wise



What's your poison? Would you like a palate-punching-peaty Bruichladdich whisky that tastes like a shot of smoke? Or maybe a sweet and viscous 1921 La Crème de Mexico tequila flavored like cake in a cocktail glass? How about a buttery chardonnay that tastes like the terroir of Sonoma's Russian River Valley, or an effervescent glass of beer that resembles a liquid tossed-hops salad? Whatever libation lifts your spirits, there's a beverage program around the Airpark to sate your thirst.

Scotch Library at Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
6902 E. Greenway Pkwy., Scottsdale
480-624-1000, kierlandresort.com

At the Scotch Library at Westin Kierland Resort, the Scotch selection is the largest whisky offering in the Southwest: more than 250 bottles, representing all six whisky regions of Scotland. Patrons can settle into the cushy tasting nook or at one of the few library tables and indulge in the live bagpipe-laden ambience. With three rare bottles on display – a Macallan 62, the second oldest Macallan ever released; a Glenfiddich 50, one of 400 bottles in the world; and the Balvenie 50, in one of only four places it's served in the country – patrons can experience historic spirits glory.

"What makes our collection unique is our



Scotch ambassadors school visitors in the ways of whisky at Westin Kierland.
(Photo courtesy: Westin Kierland Resort & Spa)

commitment to rare whisky," says Scotch ambassador Guy Sporbert, who has been bartending for almost 50 years and selling whisky locally for over 25. Sporbert hosts "An Evening of Scotches" every Friday, and a monthly Masters Tasting event featuring ambassadors from leading Scotch producers.

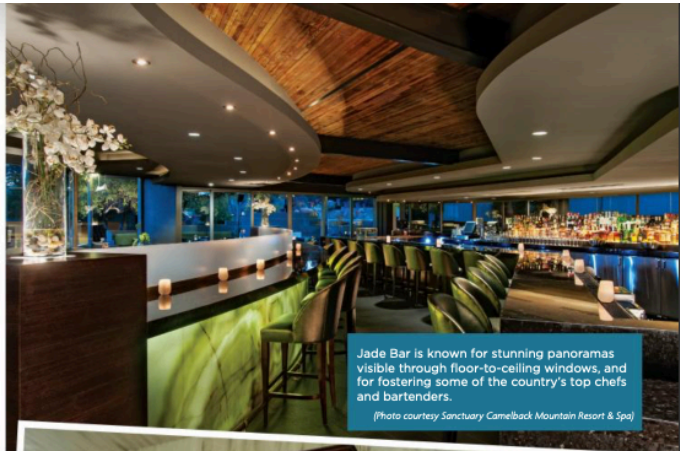
Tequila tome at The Mission Kierland
7122 E. Greenway Pkwy., Scottsdale
480-292-7800, the-mission-az.com/the-mission-kierland

For those seeking flavors south of the border, the massive tome of tequilas at The Mission Kierland quells cravings.

"We have about 90 different brands of tequila, mezcals, and cult tequilas," explains The Mission's bar manager, Ruthie Bundy.



Tequila-infused cocktails: Mission accomplished at The Mission Kierland.



Jade Bar is known for stunning panoramas visible through floor-to-ceiling windows, and for fostering some of the country's top chefs and bartenders.
(Photo courtesy: Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa)



For those seeking flavors south of the border, the massive tequila menu at The Mission Kierland quells cravings.
(Photos by Niki D'Andrea)

She suggests the Cuarto, made with 100 percent blue agave from Jalisco. Its name is Spanish for "love sonnet," and the bottle comes with a guitar pick.

The Mission location in North Scottsdale shares the camaraderie and comfort of The Mission outpost in Old Town. "Our location near our sister restaurant is a great base for what we do; there is that family mentality here," Bundy says of the Kierland area.