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The roaring 20's was a decade of prosperity, bathtub gin and jazz! If this sounds like music to your ears, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. 1928 Cocktail Club, located in the heart of Branford, Connecticut, is the only true speakeasy bar & lounge in the state! The concept of the cocktail lounge started out as initial dreams and discussions between now Co-Owners Frank Dean and Anthony Cuomo. Frank, no stranger to the hospitality industry, started from the depths of cleaning dishes in kitchen sinks, making his way to becoming a Floor Sommeliers at David Burke's Prime. Anthony, with a career in high performance computing and entrepreneurial experience, and an admirer of NYC cocktail bars, knew this was a business venture for them!

In was in that moment, the concept was born, and the doors were open on June 3rd, 2022! Now, onto, location. Location, location, location! After multiple options were considered in various neighboring towns, a space in the Branford center became available, offering everything Frank and Anthony were looking for. An intimate space close to the city of New Haven, accessible to shoreline beaches and settled amongst already local favorite small businesses of the town.

Legend has it, Branford may have even had its hands in the prohibition movement, stashing barrels of whiskey and rum by Ms. Nelly Green herself, in the basements of what is now, Pasta Cosi, Ashley's and 1928!

So, what can you expect when you walk into a place like 1928? With a swift knock on the door and a password to get in, patrons will receive a warm welcome and will be treated like part of the family. The goal is to feel transported back in time, to a cozy and inviting lounge atmosphere, where one can enjoy a carefully curated cocktail, small bites, and live jazz music. The décor is also something to take notice of, an art décor vibe, showcasing work from local artists. Cheering to the Good ol days, the cocktails and specialty drinks are constantly evolving. Inspiration is drawn from the classics, while putting a modern twist on 1928's signature cocktails! Since day one the Espresso Martini variation, 1928 Manhattan variation, and Strawberry Fields have been fan favorites.

Other noteworthy cocktails that have been recently added to the menu and all created in house and served by both the Gents and Ladies of the team include the Buck Bunny, Cristallino, Harvest Moon, and Rayuela cocktails. Not in the mood for cocktail, no stress there! Beer, wine and tasty mocktails are also available for your enjoyment.

Members only!? Not exactly. One thing Frank and Anthony want the people to know is, they are not a member only club. While membership is available for added perks and benefits, all are welcome to enjoy the establishment.

It does not go unnoticed of the passion and inspiration that has brought the Speakeasy concept alive to the Branford community. As previously stated, a cocktail bar like no other, the hopes are to continue to build on the concept with future goals of expanding this experience to other parts of the state.

Tipping our hats off to the 1928 family and staff, and all that Jazz...

Tiff's Tip: Although not required, I highly recommend making a reservation, to ensure a seat in the house! Also, to stay in the loop on the night's password, head to @1928CT Instagram where it changes nightly!