

# On cloud nine at the **Astral Bar**



Begin the evening with a cocktail at the Astral Bar.

## Samuel Spurr Bar Review

**A** cool Friday evening in autumn is more than enough of an invitation to escape for a cocktail or two at Astral Bar.

Floor to ceiling glass windows allow the fading sunlight to bounce off the cityscape and beam into this elevated hide away, captivat-

ing your attention upon entering this stylish lounge.

A view of the western side of the city is not one that normally arouses intrigue, as the sails of the Opera House are hidden and the harbour bridge heads away to the north; however, the view of this “other side” of Sydney is enveloping.

Tonight Astral is catering to the after work crowd who will

soon metamorphoses into the get-started-on-a-big-night-early crowd. The minimal interior furniture is all but gone; patrons have snapped it up quickly and with efficient table service and comfy leather chairs and ottomans, they’re not moving anytime soon! All appear to be enjoying the DJs lounge music whose volume ensures up-close and personal conversations.

The cocktail menu reads easily with classics and a few potions not seen before. The Chocolate Saffron Martini defies belief. If a blind taste was on the cards, you would swear the martini had a cream or milk base; however, the use of Van Gogh Dutch Chocolate Vodka, a dash of Streg Liqueur and a pinch of Saffron mask the drink’s clarity.

A star-studded lineup of cocktails on the menu keep the

aftermentioned martini in good company. A “Cappucini” made up of Finlandia Vodka, a shot of espresso and vanilla foam sounds enticing, as does a Rosewater Collins that hooks my partner in. Created using Seriously Pink Vodka, lemon juice and rosewater syrup, this concoction built over cracked ice provides a refreshing tingle to the tastebuds.

An outdoor viewing platform complete with outdoor furniture and views of the inner west and city is easily accessed. A trip outside on an autumn night is aided by *de rigueur* heat lamps, however thoughts of losing those comfy seats beckon us quickly inside once the breeze picks up. Note to self: definitely standing room only if you came at a busier time.

Astral Bar will entice this winter. Uninterrupted city views, delicious cocktails and the beautiful crowd are sure to raise your body temperature on the coldest of nights.

Astral Bar is on level 17, Hotel Tower, Star City, Sydney. Opening hours are seven days, 5.30pm till late.