



LADY DIMITRESCU: A Resident Evil: Village-inspired cocktail, a Three Lives rendition of a clarified New York sour with a red wine float

RAISING THE BAR

A Syracuse entrepreneur with a love for video games embarks on a quest to take cocktails and his business to the next level.

BY ALEXANDER STURDIVANT

Jon Page wanted a home away from home, a place where people would walk in and feel as if it were created just for them, a place where customers would say, “This is it. This is my spot.”

In 2020, Page opened Three Lives, a full-service bar and restaurant with personality and plenty of video games. Now, it is a place where friends can grab a bite to eat and have a few drinks, a place where just about anyone can be comfortable sharing their love for all things geek. With an ever-growing collection of regulars and adding new patrons daily, this barcade is making a name for itself in Central New York and is becoming the go-to place for local geeks, gamers and curious passersby drawn by their logo, a triad of 8-bit hearts. Playing to its clientele, the bar holds a variety of weekly events, including movie nights, Rock Band karaoke and pajama brunches.

At its core, Three Lives specializes in retro video games and a modern spin on classic cocktails. The bar’s “alchemists,” aka bartenders, pride themselves on creating cleverly named cocktails inspired by video games and geek culture. The drink menu features concoctions such as “potions,” “tinctures,” and other libations named for niche videogame references. When asked what he loves about Three Lives, bar manager Stephen Clark said: “I like the constant rotation of drinks that we get to create. ... It never feels stale; we always have something new and exciting.”