



The Guardian - 31 December 2005

Preview: bars

With castle-sized fireplaces and impossibly high ceilings taking centre stage, mere mortals appear rather dwarfed by the main hall of this new bar and restaurant. But despite resembling part of the Harry Potter film set, this venue has been a drinking joint for much of the last century.

Reform was its most famous incarnation, when the epic innards were decked out in leopard skin. Under the current management, both decor and food are much more staid, but what makes Room worth a closer look is the service and surprisingly adventurous drinks menu.

Their blazing cocktails are literally set alight to infuse slabs of ginger with cinnamon, berries and luscious spirits, while the international wine and beer selection includes a range of occasion bottles from Scotland's highly respected Inverarity Vaults. DJs occasionally grace the decks of an evening, and overall, there's a warm vibe of bonhomie; perfect, really, for a dressy knees up.