

RED ONION SALOON



205 Broadway
Skagway, AK 99840 - www.redonion1898.com



Top of the Inside Passage
2014

DURING THE GOLD RUSH...



The Red Onion Saloon, once considered Skagway's most exclusive bordello, is listed today on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. It was built in 1897 with rough planks cut by Captain William Moore, the founder of Skagway. The saloon opened for business in 1898, serving alcohol on the first floor while the upper floor satisfied more than the prospector's thirst. The brothel consisted of ten tiny cubicles, called cribs which measured ten feet by ten feet. Each room had a hole in the floor which connected to the cash register downstairs by means of a copper tube.

In order to keep track of which girls were busy, the bartender kept ten dolls on the back bar, one for each of the girls in each of the rooms. When a girl was with a customer, her doll was laid on its back. When she sent her money down the tube, the doll was returned to the upright position signaling to the waiting prospectors that she was ready for business. The bartender safeguarded the girls' earnings, usually \$5.00, preferably in gold, but the girls often hid nuggets and private tips under loose floorboards.

Because the rooms were divided by single planks toe-nailed into the ceiling and floor, not much sound-proofing was provided. To decorate their cribs, the women stretched linen across the rough planks, then glued wall paper to the cloth. Remnants of the original wall papers still cling to the planks. Some of the girls who worked in Skagway were Birdie Ash, Big Dessie, Popcorn Lil, the Oregon Mare, Babe Davenport, Pea Hull Annie, Kitty Faith, the Belle of Skagway and Klondike

Kate. By late 1899, business began to suffer. Most of the women moved north to Dawson which was closer to the gold fields and had big gambling casinos and dance halls. As the railroad became the center of business for Skagway, numerous buildings were moved closer to the depot.

The Red Onion was moved in 1914 with one horse from Sixth and State Street to its current Broadway location. Interestingly, the Onion was dragged around the corner backwards and the front and back of the building had to be removed in order to switch them. During World War II the building was used as an army barracks and in subsequent years housed a laundry, bakery, union hall, television station and gift shop. In 1980, Jan Wrentmore purchased a liquor license and opened the building once more as a saloon and it has been rocking ever since.

ONE FOR THE (WAGON) ROAD?

Of all the services provided in the Skagway region, perhaps the most sorely needed, and most proliferate, were the saloons and hooch tents. Whether escaping the dreadful conditions or celebrating a lucky strike, the saloons were happy to indulge even the thirstiest of throats. At the height of the Klondike Gold Rush, there were dozens of saloons in Skagway, and even more could be found along the entire length of both the Chilkoot and White Pass. They were places full of music, laughter and warmth. And if you accidentally found yourself in the bar, you'd see watered-down whiskey at two bits a hoist, Mumm's champagne at ten dollars a quart, and depending on the establishment, friendly ladies of all shapes and sizes.

IN THE YEAR OF 1898...

"The fellow landed at Dyea with his trunks and suitcases and within a few days he contracted a severe case of cold feet. In fact, he decided he had seen all of the North he wanted to see. He sold his entire outfit, including the fur coat and all the other clothes except those he wore, for \$20 and headed for Skagway to catch a boat south. But in Skagway, Delilah saw him coming, and took him in. Delilah, in fact had taking ways, and two nights later the Stroller saw the fellow in the alley next to the Red Onion Saloon. He was weeping copiously and he knew not where to lay his head. He was staked to the price of a meal and spent the night on the floor of the printing office where the Stroller had secured employment."

"And there were many other important and historic events in Skagway that year, including the hair-yanking match between Cross-eyed Liz and Gin Sling Molly one evening at the Palace of Delight, the start of construction of the White Pass Railroad, and the elopement of the lady bartender at the Red Onion Saloon with one of the town's prominent merchants."

**FROM KLONDIKE NEWSMAN
"STROLLER WHITE",
compiled and edited by R.N. Dearmond**

ARE YOU BROTHEL CURIOUS?

**\$10 FOR TWENTY MINUTES
(SHE'S ONLY GONNA TALK TO YOU...
THIS IS ONLY A TOUR)**

Take a guided tour of our historic brothel museum with one of the lovely Red Onion Madams. Times are posted by the back staircase and announcements are made regularly. Includes a souvenir garter!

WHERE THE LADIES NEVER MISS A TRICK!

WHITE WINES

Ruffino Lumino Pinot Grigio (Tuscany) Medium bodied with hints of pear, citrus & a touch of minerality	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Noblio Icon Sauvignon (New Zealand) Rich & full bodied with characteristics of peach & gooseberry	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Diseno Torrontes (Argentina) Light & effervescent white wine with hints of tropical fruit	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Kim Crawford Unoaked Chardonnay (New Zealand) A crisp unoaked chardonnay with citrus flavors, a touch of spice & a bit of creaminess	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Pomelo Sauvignon Blanc (Napa, CA) Vivid style of passion fruit, guava & grapefruit	Glass \$8	Bottle \$32

SPARKLING

Charles & Charles Rosé (Columbia Valley, Washington) Effervescent flavors of strawberry & watermelon	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
La Marca Prosecco (Italy) A creamy & delicate well balanced Prosecco	Glass \$8	Bottle \$32

RED WINES

Underwood Pinot Noir (Oregon) Velvety smooth with flavors of red fruit, spice & earthiness	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Tinto Negro Malbec (Argentina) Savory & earthy qualities with aromas of blueberry, cherries & cocoa	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Louis Martini Cabernet (Sonoma, CA) Elegant & rich with an abundance of red fruits & a hint of oak	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Ignito Rouge (Lodi, CA) A soft pleasant drinking wine with a hint of oak & spice. Blended with Merlot, Petite Verdot, Tempranillo & Petite Syrah	Glass \$7	Bottle \$28
Milbrandt Brothers' Blend (Eastern Washington) Rich & velvety with balanced flavors of plum, mocha & blueberry. Blended with Mouvedre, Malbec, Cabernet & Tempranillo	Glass \$8	Bottle \$32

BEER – ON DRAFT

\$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00

Amber White Alaskan Brewing Company Beers (Brewed in Juneau, Alaska)	Stout Free Ride APA	Summer
Widmer Hefeweizen \$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00 Widmer Brothers (Brewed in Portland, Oregon)		
Peril Strait Pale Ale \$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00 Baranof Island Brewing (Brewed in Sitka, Alaska)		
Dicks Danger Ale \$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00 Dicks Brewing (Brewed in Centralia, Washington)		
Tecate \$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00 Cuahtémoc Moctezuma (Brewed in Mexico)		
Dead Guy Ale \$6.00 Draft / Pitcher \$24.00 Rogue Ales (Brewed in Newport, Oregon)		
Bud & Bud Light - Draft \$5.00 Draft / Pitcher \$20.00 Anheuser-Busch (Brewed in St. Louis, Missouri)		
Woodchuck Cider \$6.50 Draft / Pitcher \$26.00 Woodchuck Cider (Brewed in Middlebury, Vermont)		

BEER – BOTTLE

Corona.....	\$5.50
Michelob Ultra.....	\$5.00
Guinness Pub Draught (Can).....	\$6.00
Omission Pale (Gluten Free)	\$6.00
St. Pauli's N/A.....	\$5.50
Cock 'n Bull Ginger Beer N/A	\$5.50

BEVERAGES

Fountain Sodas: Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist,
Iced Tea & Ginger Ale (One free refill).....\$2.00

Gold Rush Brewery Root Beer (Skagway, Alaska).....\$4.00

Ripinsky Roasters Coffee (Haines, AK) (One free refill)..... \$2.50

Juice: Orange, Pineapple, Cranberry, Grapefruit & Tomato.....\$2.50

RED ONION SPECIALTY COCKTAILS

Red Light Bloody Mary \$8.50
Icy Strait vodka (Haines, Alaska) with our zesty housemade bloody mary mix & a spicy dill pickle

Madams Martini \$8.00
The ladies' favorite! Alaskan fireweed vodka, orange liqueur, cranberry & lime.

Moscow Mule \$8.00
Tito's vodka and spicy ginger beer, topped with lime.
The perfect summer drink!

Gold Rush Margarita \$8.50
A summer classic! El Jimador Reposado, triple sec, lemon & lime on the rocks with salt & a Grand Marnier floater.

Beer's Knees \$8.00
50 Fathoms gin (Haines, Alaska) lemon and honey come together with Alaskan White Ale over ice for a refreshing, delicious beer cocktail.

Guinness Cream Soda \$8.00
Not your daughter's cream soda... Guinness mixed with ginger & vanilla liqueurs, served over ice and topped with a splash of soda.

Klondike Coffee \$8.00
Amaretto, Baileys and Crème de cacao come together with whipped cream in this classic coffee treat.

Applejack Hot Toddy \$8.00
Nickelback Applejack, made in Sterling, AK, makes a delicious hot drink for those cold, rainy Alaskan summer days.

Soapy Calls The Shots

Reindeer Fart \$7.50
Skagway's answer to the duckfart! Baileys, Kahlua & peppermint schnapps... we think it's better!

Gold Digger \$7.50
True Alaskan prospectors take the reindeer fart to the next level by adding locally made moonshine!

Northern Lights \$7.50
Truuli vodka (Anchorage, Alaska) pineapple & Midori; experience the Aurora with this sweet treat!

Fire Dance \$8.50
Let us tip the scales your way with Alaskan moonshine sprinkled with real gold flakes!

ALL MADAMS WILL POSITIVELY KEEP THEIR GIRLS OFF THE STREETS AFTER DARK

GF Gluten Free V Vegetarian

APPETIZERS

Chips & Salsa

Tri-colored tortilla chips served with homemade salsa \$5.50 GF V

Streetwalker Salmon Dip

Wild caught Alaskan salmon blended with cream cheese, green onions, red onions, lemon juice & dill served with toasted pita points \$12.50

Hustler's Hummus

Made with roasted garlic, freshly squeezed lemon juice & tahini
Served with toasted pita points & balsamic cucumber relish \$10.50 V

Naughty Nelly Nachos

A Red Onion classic. Layers of chips covered in cheddar cheese, onions, olives, jalapeños, tomatoes & green peppers served with salsa & sour cream
\$13.00 GF V Add chicken \$2.00 / Add chili \$3.00

HOT SANDWICHES

Served with Tim's Cascade chips & a kosher dill pickle

The Pimp

Classic hot reuben sandwich... marble rye bread with russian dressing, sauerkraut, swiss cheese & thick layers of pastrami

Substitute turkey for pastrami & make it a Rachel \$12.50

Sloppy John

Just like mom made... ground beef in a sweet, rich tomato sauce with onions, peppers & spices \$11.00

DELI-SANDWICHES

All sandwiches served with lettuce, onion & tomato

Tim's Cascade chips & a kosher dill pickle

Trollop

Turkey & provolone stacked on a croissant with mayo \$10.50

Harlot

Ham & swiss stacked on a croissant with honey dijon & mayo \$10.50

"Ménage a Trois"

Ham, turkey & bacon stacked on a croissant with swiss, cheddar, honey dijon & mayo \$11.50

Betty

Bacon, lettuce, tomatoes & mayo on a fluffy croissant \$10.50

Happy Endings By Sugar Mamas

Red Velvet Cupcake **\$4.00** Sized to Share

SOUPS & SALADS

Cathouse Salad

Fresh greens topped with cucumber, tomato, carrots, red onion, croutons & cheddar cheese. Your choice of dressings include ranch, bleu cheese, creamy italian, caesar or balsamic vinaigrette

Side \$5.50 / Full \$8.50 V

Seize-Her Salad

Crisp romaine, shaved parmesan & classic caesar dressing

Side \$5.50 / Full \$8.50

Spinner Salad

Organic spinach, bleu cheese, mushrooms & red onions. Tossed with house made balsamic vinaigrette & topped with candied pecans & orange segments

\$9.00 GF V Add bacon crumbles \$0.75

Gold Rush Chili

Beef & bean chili made with smoky chipotle & sweet ancho chilies topped with cheddar & green onions

\$5.00 Cup / \$7.00 Bowl GF

Soup of the Day

\$4.00 Cup / \$6.00 Bowl

PIZZA

All pizzas are personal size

Gluten pizza crusts available for an additional \$1.50

Plain Jane

Marinara sauce & mozzarella \$10.00 V

Madam Jan

Three cheese pesto pizza with mozzarella, parmesan, goat cheese & roasted garlic \$11.50 V

Bombay Peggy

Marinara sauce, Canadian bacon, pineapple & mozzarella \$11.50

Lady LaVoie

Marinara sauce, artichokes, tomatoes, mushrooms, red onions, mozzarella & goat cheese \$11.50 V

Add sausage for a Dirty LaVoie \$1.00

Big Dessie

Marinara sauce, Canadian bacon, Italian sausage, pepperoni, red onion & mozzarella \$12.50

Shady Lady

BBQ sauce, chicken, red onions, cheddar & mozzarella \$11.50

The Classic

Your classic pepperoni pizza \$11.50

The Chicken Ranch

Ranch, chicken, bacon, tomatoes, red onions & mozzarella \$11.50

Klondike Kate

Pesto sauce covered in red onions, tomatoes, kalamata olives, caramelized onions, mozzarella & feta \$11.50 V

THE BACK PAGE

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Top of the Inside Passage

DRINKING FUN FACTS

Beer started selling in bottles in 1850 and in cans in 1935.

The United States has the highest minimum drinking age in the entire world.

Prohibition lasted 13 years, 10 months, 19 days, 17 hours, 32 minutes and 30 seconds.

The world's oldest known recipe is for beer.

It is illegal to feed alcohol to Moose in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Distilled spirits such as brandy, gin, rum, tequila, etc. contain no carbohydrates, no fats, and no cholesterol of any kind.

In the 1600s thermometers used to be filled with brandy instead of mercury.

It is estimated that there are 49 million bubbles in a bottle of champagne.

The pressure in a champagne bottle is 90 pounds per square inch, that is roughly three times the pressure in automobile tires.

RED LIGHT DISTRICT WILL CLOSE JUNE 3 TO ALLOW GIRLS TO ATTEND POLICEMAN'S BALL

-CHIEF OF POLICE

A NOTE ON TRADITIONS, FROM JAN WRENTMORE, THE OWNER...

On July 4th, 1980 with fresh sawdust on the floor and its historic 19 foot mahogany bar glistening with polish, the Red Onion Saloon opened its doors as a drinking establishment for the first time in 80 years.

The freshly painted bathrooms stood ready and waiting, their pale yellow walls gleaming unnaturally. For twenty-four hours my customers respected the sanctity of those unspoiled surfaces, and then, in tiny print, almost too small to read directly above the toilet appeared, "Better living with Bigger Hammer." Shortly thereafter, in bolder print "Welcome to Skagway where the population always remains the same. Every time a child is born, a man leaves town." Signed, "Governor Brady."

And that's how it all began. At first my customers were discreet, sneaking into the bathroom with markers hidden in their pockets. Soon they grew bolder, borrowing markers from bartenders and dragging their friends in to see their handiwork. They scribbled on every available surface, ceiling, hot water tank, even inside the toilet. They recorded their comings and goings, who they liked and who they didn't, their broken hearts and sexual frustrations, politics, philosophy and attempts at humor. Since then the Red Onion has inspired its patrons to adorn its bathroom walls with graffiti though the building itself has undergone renovations and repaints. Below you'll find some of the very first inkings transcribed by Skip Elliott, the then Mayor of Skagway, who performed the task while standing on a chair, bundled in his winter clothing, fumbling with flashlight & notebook. Many of you will no doubt question the appropriateness of these writings, however, the Red Onion has always enjoyed her questionable reputation.

Jan gives good bar

Thanks for the mammaries!

Most good things are done
by hand

How to speak with an Irish
accent in one easy lesson.

Say these words quickly:

WHALE
OIL
BEEF
HOOKED

THERE WAS A YOUNG LADY FROM
KETCHIKAN,
NOT HOONAH, OR TENAKEE, OR
PELICAN.

Skagway Electric Co.
-Let us check your shorts-

SHE SERVED DRINKS AND SMILED
AND DROVE US ALL WILD.
CAN THAT GIRL DANCE? YOU BET
SHE CAN-CAN!

Friends may come and
Friends may go
Some may peter out
You know,
But we've been friends thru
Thick or thin,
Peter out or peter in.
-The Tubesteak Boogie Sisters

I HAVE NO DRINKING
PROBLEM
I DRINK
I GET DRUNK
I FALL DOWN
NO PROBLEM

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS

Available at the front!

Garters, brothel tokens & keychains

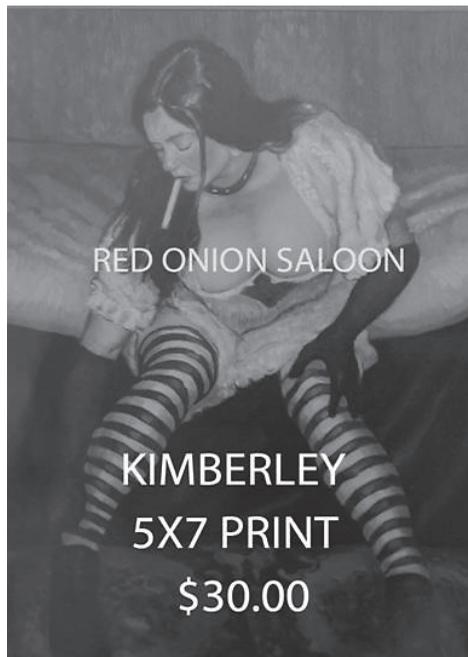
Shot glasses & pint glasses

Magnets & lapel pins

Playing cards & koozies

Ball caps, trucker hats & golf balls

Assorted sweatshirts & more!



Prints by local artist
Pete Luchetti are available.