



THE BAR

The Peninsula, Chicago

A caliginous little lounge just off the lobby of this very brightly lit hotel, The Bar is all elegance and sophistication: Dark wood furnishings, a fireplace, plush upholstery, and a classy back bar that looks eerily close to the hotel bar in Kubrick's *The Shining*.

The service here is pitch-perfect Peninsula (they serve you ice water and tasty nibbles when you sit at the bar), and the cocktail menu features both artisan originals and the classics. I chose the Coxsackie Smash—because it's so much fun to try and say that three times fast. Composed of Knob Creek Bourbon, ginger beer, mint, bitters, and sour cherries, this drink put me in a fine mood to look for more set-pieces throughout the Windy City.

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