



# 22 CLIFTON

Too young to remember wine bars back in the 'eighties? That's OK, because they're back! And this time, they're not full of yuppies shouting into mobiles the size of a brick...

## ABOUT 22 CLIFTON

The bar is located in a Georgian cellar beneath the Clifton Club, with original vaulted ceilings, exposed brickwork and stone flooring dating back to the early 1800s. Behind the traditional facade lies a sophisticated contemporary interior with high-backed comfy booths, small intimate tables and copper pendant lighting.

Everything was designed in house by the team, from small details such as the Suspension Bridge which spans the shelves in the wine shop to a large table handcrafted from 300-year-old reclaimed timber.

For more [www.22clifton.com](http://www.22clifton.com)

**22** Clifton was originally conceived as a shop by Bristol Fine Wine founder Charles Lucas, who considered a retail outlet to be a natural extension to his wholesale business. However, a chance message in a friendship chat group led to discussions about a wine bar, and the vision for 22 Clifton emerged.

The original concept was simple: embrace the heritage of the building, and combine with entrepreneurial vision to redefine the notion of a modern wine bar.

We asked general manager Emily Green to tell us more. Firstly, are wine bars having a bit of a comeback?

"There's a definite resurgence in people being interested in wine," says Emily. "At 22 Clifton we ensure customers don't feel intimidated when ordering, and encourage them to try grapes and varietals they would not normally expect to enjoy."

Emily is proud of her team of highly trained professionals: "It's not just a bar job; staff undergo extensive cocktail masterclasses and regular training to ensure they focus on the experience of tasting wine and clearly communicate what to expect," she says.

22 Clifton also offers sharing platters of food, with options for group bookings and parties. The bar also holds regular events, with live music performed most weekends. "Monthly wine tastings at 22 Clifton sell out regularly, and have developed almost cult status, while remaining casual and relaxed. Aimed at providing an immersive experience as much as an education, tastings are centred around themes such as Winter Winederland in October, when warming wines for the winter months were embraced, followed this month by wines to pair perfectly with Christmas dinner.

"It's exciting to witness guests surprising themselves by sampling wine from an emerging vineyard, or rediscovering a traditional vintage they didn't think they would enjoy.

It's the natural progression that people want to attend tastings guided by an expert."

Champagne, prosecco, beer on tap and cocktails complement the offering, at the most competitive and affordable prices in the local area. The shop also offers a vast range of red, white, rose, orange, champagne and other sparkling options, magnums, gin, vermouth, port and much more. ■

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