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# SIGNATURE

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FESTIVAL SOUTH  
2026

BEST OF  
THE PINE BELT  
FINALISTS

Waymakers

Pink Invasion

Blueberry  
Bread Pudding

# Pink INVASION

Trattoria Pizzeria  
128 East Front Street, Hattiesburg  
trattoriapizzeriams.com • [f/trattoriahattiesburg](#)

Photos by Rob Walker



At Trattoria Pizzeria, bartender Jelly James has introduced us to her latest cocktail creation: the Pink Invasion, a gentle, floral spin on the classic gimlet. Instead of traditional simple syrup, she makes her own mimosa-flower syrup from the blooms of the Albizia julibrissin, giving the drink its soft color and botanical lift.

For Jelly, the gimlet is a reliable favorite - something she reaches for when she isn't sure what she's in the mood for. And the Pink Invasion, she explained, brings together two things she loves: gin and botanicals.

"There's a wonderful world of gin to explore," she said. "It's so much more than the piney stuff people remember from their grandpa's liquor cabinet."

Her interest in botanicals comes naturally. An avid forager, she is always looking for ways to "eat the weeds." The mimosa tree, though beautiful, is invasive, and turning its blossoms into syrup is her small way of keeping it in check while creating something memorable for the glass.

Though she calls herself a "baby bartender," with just three and a half years behind the bar, Jelly's creativity and sense of place shine through. A Mississippi native who grew up in Oak Grove, she's lived a few places but feels most at home in Hattiesburg.

And with drinks like Pink Invasion, she's helping give that home a flavor all its own. ✦



## PINK INVASION

2 ounces Empress 1908 Indigo Gin  
1 ounce lime juice  
2 ounces mimosa simple syrup\*

Blend in an ice-filled shaker, then serve and enjoy.

\*To make the mimosa simple syrup, she recommends using a ratio of 4:1 by volume of simple syrup to fresh, clean mimosa flowers. Let it sit overnight in the fridge and strain it through a coffee filter to make sure none of the pollen or plant particulates end up in the final product.