

SINGAPORE'S BEST NIGHTLIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES





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# EDITOR'S NOTE

#### DRINK IT ALL IN

It feels like we say this every year, but we only say it because it's true: There's never been a better time to be a lover of good drinks in Singapore.

Our cocktail bars now rank among the best in the world, with Manhattan reaching the dizzying heights of third on the World's 50 Best Bars list in 2018. Led by the likes of Native, more establishments are mixing drinks with regional flavors and ingredients, a trend that can be seen surfacing in Singaporean craft beer as well.

Speaking of which, we now have more microbreweries in Singapore than ever, and two intrepid distilleries have emerged to produce the first Singaporean gins: Tanglin and Brass Lion.

Regardless of where you look — specialty spirits bars, craft beer bars, alcohol events, wine bars, sake bars, bottle shops, gastrobars, clubs and even dive bars — Singapore's drinks scene is thriving, and it's the perfect time to recognize the driving forces behind this golden age.

In our 2019 edition of SG Magazine Nightlife, you'll find 100 of Singapore's best bars, clubs, breweries, shops and events as selected by our team and you, our readers. We hope you'll have as much fun using it as we had putting it together.

Cheers!

The SG Magazine Team



#### N THE COVER:

Brass Lion Distillery, 40 Alexandra Terrace, 6954-0602, brassliondistillery.com See page 12.

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# Cocktail Bars

Singapore's cocktail scene is among the world's most influential and admired — the cocktail bars here regularly make global best-bars lists, and they represent a city that has truly arrived on the world stage. It goes without saying that this was the most competitive category in our guide.

"Meteoric" doesn't even begin to describe the rise of Vijay Mudaliar's Native. In just over two years, they've claimed 13th spot on the World's 50 Best Bars list and eighth spot on the list for Asia. They've done it with their dedication to Asian spirits and flavors, focus on foraging and sustainability, and spirit of adventure and experimentation. Did you ever think you'd be drinking cocktails with ants and grasshoppers as ingredients?

52A Amoy St., 8869-6520, tribenative.com

MANHATTAN

Topping the Asia's 50 Best Bars list for the last two years and soaring to third on the worldwide list, Manhattan is very much a standard-bearer for Singapore. It captures the spirit of New York so well — with a menu that spans 500 years and five eras of the city's history — it currently outranks every actual New York bar on the World's 50 Best Bars list. Housemade ingredients and the world's first in-hotel rickhouse have been key to their success.

2/F Regent Singapore, 1 Cuscaden Rd., 6725-3377, fb.com/manhattansg











OPERATION DAGGER

Answering the question, "What would speakeasies look like if Prohibition was in effect today?" Operation Dagger is home to inventive alchemists who add a bit of theater to your cocktail experience. Fermented banana, cherry vinegar,

alchemists who add a bit of theater to your cock experience. Fermented banana, cherry vinegar, potato skins and pea husks are just some of the ingredients that go into their concoctions.

#B1-017 Ann Siang Hill, 6438-4057, fb.com/operationdagger

#### **28 HONGKONG STREET**

The timeline of Singapore's cocktail scene can be split into two epochs: Before 28 HongKong Street and After 28 HongKong Street. Seven years on, they still deliver a distinctive night out — no Facebook page and no signage, just great service and a cocktail list made up of classics and contemporary creations.

28 HongKong St., 8318-0328, 28hks.com

#### **ATLAS**

The spectacle of Atlas is something unrivalled in Singapore. Occupying the grand lobby of the "Gotham building", Parkview Square, they boast a collection of over a thousand gins — some a century old — and cocktails that draw inspiration from fields as diverse as architecture, fashion and automotive engineering.

1/F Parkview Square, 600 North Bridge Rd., 6396-4466, atlasbar.sg

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#### Best Cocktail Bars







**JUNIOR** A novel concept from the folks behind 28 HongKong Street, Junior The Pocket Bar might have found the perfect way to boost the replay value of a bar in a city where cocktail aficionados are always on the lookout for something different change your concept regularly. So far, they've been a tequila and mezcal joint and they've been a New Orleans-style bar; we can't wait to see what's next.

43 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 8121-1462, fb.com/juniorthepocketbar

**NUTMEG & CLOVE** An oft-forgotten figure in the founding of modern Singapore, William Farquhar finally gets his recognition at Nutmeg & Clove - the current

menu is based on his Natural History Drawings. Bay leaf, tongkat ali, chrysanthemum, durian and mangosteen all find their way into the drinks here.

10A Ann Siang Hill, 9389-9301, nutmegandclove.com.sg

#### **ORIGIN BAR**

Using five prominent districts of Singapore as their guide — Boat Quay, Chinatown,

Little India, Marina Bay and Orchard — Origin distills the essence of the island in cocktails like the Miss Joaquim, a mix of orchid, rambutan, pomegranate, sherry and vodka.

Lobby Level, Tower Wing, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore, 22 Orange Grove Rd., 6213-4595, fb.com/origin65

# **ALL THINGS** CONSIDERED



For more information

+65 6808 7258

woobar.singapore@whotels.com

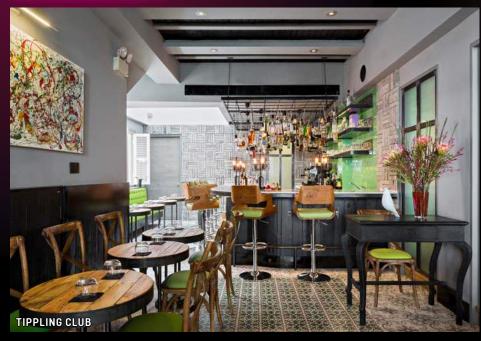








#### Best Cocktail Bars



TIPPLING CLUB
Chef Ryan Clift's pioneering establishment might have celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, but the Tippling Club experience is as fresh as ever. From perfume-influenced cocktails to edible cocktails in the form of gummy bears, they continue to innovate. No surprise that they were seventh on the Asia's 50 Best Bars list for 2018.

38 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 6475-2217, tipplingclub.com

JIGGER AND PONY
New location, same commitment to classics. Among the 27 cocktails on
Jigger and Pony's new menu (not counting their six punch bowl options) are contemporary takes on the Singapore Sling, Jungle Bird and Rob Roy.

G/F Amara Singapore, 165 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 9621-1074, jiggerandpony.com



# Spirits Bars

From the world's oldest whiskies to its funkiest gins, richest rums and smokiest mezcals — you'll find it all at Singapore's top spirits bars. And these days, your bottle of choice just might come with a "Made in Singapore" label.

LA MAISON DU WHISKY
La Maison du Whisky means business when it comes to whisky — they're the folks behind Whisky Live, a major highlight on Singapore's drinking calendar for almost a decade — but they've also introduced us to a wide variety of other quality spirits, from Okinawan rum to quinoa vodka and everything in between.

#01-10 The Pier, 80 Mohamed Sultan Rd., 6733-0059, whisky.sg

An institution if there ever was one,
The Auld Alliance is one of the world's
great temples of whisky. With more than a
thousand bottles to choose from — including some
extraordinarily rare whiskies available by the glass —
it will remain a reference point as long as people here
enjoy a fine dram.

#02-02A Rendezvous Hotel Gallery, 9 Bras Basah Rd., 6337-2201, theauldalliance.sg





#### Best Spirits Bars











**BRASS LION DISTILLERY** 

Stocking everything from London dry to Old Tom, navy strength, modern and sloe (not forgetting aged gins, flavored gins and genever), Cin Cin is a place to learn all there is to know about gin.

#01-02 Oasia Hotel Downtown, 100 Peck Seah St., 6385-2604, cincin.com.sg



#### **SPIFFY DAPPER**

While they're a great place for cocktails too, Spiffy's pioneering effort in perfecting

the G&T puts them on the list of the country's best spirits bars. The Spiffy Dapper Gin Club is also your ticket to masterclasses and a bottle or two of gin each month.

2/F 73 Amoy St., 8742-8908, spiffydapper.com

5. BRASS LION
DISTILLERY

With Singapore hosting more microbreweries than ever, it was only a matter of time (and paperwork) before the age of locally distilled spirits dawned here. Two Singapore-made

gins debuted in 2018: Tanglin and Brass Lion. At the latter's distillery, you can taste the signature London Dry Gin, with 22 botanical including coriander and torch ginger, and meet Nala, their copper still.

40 Alexandra Terrace, 6954-0602, brassliondistillery.com

At this 40-seater offshoot of Jiak Chuan favorite Lime House, shelves are filled with more than 150 rums from all over the world. From the shores of Caribbean paradise isles to the

slopes of a volcano in the Philippines, these rums deliver a journey like no other.

2/F 2 Jiak Chuan Rd., 6222-3130, limehouse.asia

THE BEAST

The go-to place when it comes to bourbon and down-home Southern cuisine in

Singapore, The Beast deals in names like Eagle Rare, Elijah Craig and Four Roses. Expect to see some unusual offerings from the big boys like Jim Beam and Wild Turkey as well.

17 Jln Klapa, 6295-0017, thebeast.sg

#### Best Spirits Bars







THE WALL

While there's been no shortage of talk about building walls in recent years, this

establishment is all about breaking down walls — you're welcome here whether you're a connoisseur or a whisky "amateur". Have a whisky flight with a selection of Japanese bites, or go for the full omakase whisky pairing experience.

76 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 6225-7988, thewallsg.com

THE COOPERAGE

A welcome addition to HongKong Street,
The Cooperage aims to offer whisky at
affordable prices. Keep an eye out for their Single

Saturdays & Malt Mondays program — where they offer special single malts by the glass — and regular tasting events.

42 HongKong St., 8699-9366, fb.com/thecooperage.sg

**ROOM FOR MORE** 

Does Singapore have too many whisky bars? We'd like to think there's always

room for more. This bar at Dempsey has all the big names of Scotland and Japan covered, but they also surprise with a selection of whiskies from the Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland.

40C Harding Rd., 6679-1800, roomformore.sg

Craft Beer Bars

The thirst for craft beer in Singapore only continues to grow, with good beer available at more places in greater quantities than ever before. From old favorites to newer arrivals, these bars promise an adventure with every pint.

SMITH STREET TAPS

You can't beat an original. Five years on from their debut, their 12 taps might seem humble compared to other establishments on this list, but you can bet that founders Daniel Goh and Meng Chao will have each one pouring a distinctive Singaporean beer, a cult classic or a rare, experimental brew.

#02-62 Chinatown Complex, 335 Smith St., 9430-2750, fb.com/smithstreettaps

DRUGGISTS

Jalan Besar just wouldn't be the same without the 23 taps at Druggists;

dispensing eye-opening beers from Mikkeller, To ØI and just about every brewery with a dedicated following. Their beer-appropriate fusion fare deserves a shout-out too.

119 Tyrwhitt Rd., 6341-5967, fb.com/druggists.sg





#### Best Craft Beer Bars











AMERICAN TAPROOM
First there were 12, then there were 23
and then there were 30. With that many
taps, American Taproom has been able to find a
niche for showcasing Singapore's more unusual and
lesser-known brews: from the likes of Binjai Brew.

Brewlander and That Singapore Beer Project. #01-23 Waterloo Centre, 261 Waterloo St., 9632-1570, fb.com/americantaproomsg



#### **ALCHEMIST BEER LAB**

Craft beer is all about trying new things, and at Alchemist — touted as the world's

first infusion beer lab — the 16 infusion towers create some of the country's most interesting brews. Taking Little Island Brewing Co beers (along with some cider and mead), they add flavours from vanilla pods, maple, coconut and more.

#B1-16 South Beach Avenue, 26 Beach Rd., 6386-4365, tab.sg

FREEHOUSE
Freehouse isn't exactly a hard-to-find secret bar, but it somehow manages to feel like your own personal hideout. The

words "No Strangers Here" glow above its 16

taps, and there's a good chance you'll end up with some new friends after a session here.

21A Boon Tat St., 8362-6740, fb.com/freehousesg

# GOOD LUCK BEERHOUSE

Good Luck squeezes impressive variety into its eight taps, but it's also a winner because of its location. There's nothing quite like people-watching on Haji Lane with a goblet of refreshing gose in hand.

9 Haji Ln., 8742-4809, fb.com/goodluckbeerhouse

# MIKKELLER BAR SINGAPORE

The opening of Mikkeller Bar Singapore in 2016 was something of an affirmation that Singapore was a force to be reckoned with when it came to craft beer culture. The gypsy brewer's wild and wonderful best flows here, together with some more approachable beers named for the bar's current location on Purvis Street.

2/F 7 Purvis St., 6677-7969, fb.com/mikkellerbarsg

#### Best Craft Beer Bars







TAP

Some people still think that craft beer is only meant for snobbish hipsters, but Tap

has been a force against that notion. With \$10 pints from 20 taps at two locations, they're helping to make the good stuff available to more people.

Two outlets, including #01-02 86 Robertson Quay, 6694-2885, tapthat.com.sg

### 9 3RD CULTURE BREWING CO

Led by the appropriately named Manbeer Singh, 3rd Culture Brewing Co brought the craft beer hawker concept to two iconic hawker centers: Maxwell Food Centre and Old Airport Road Food Centre. Keep up with their events on Facebook.

Two outlets, including #01-33 Maxwell Food Centre, 1 Kadayanallur St., fb.com/3rdculturebrewingco

## SQUE ROTISSERIE & ALEHOUSE

An oldie but goodie, Sque harks back to the days when we lost ourselves in never-ending lists of bottled craft beer. They've got 250 to choose from, so pace yourself.

Two outlets, including #01-70 Clarke Quay Central, 6 Eu Tong Sen St., 6222-1887, sque.com.sg



Some might rank among the loftiest in the world, others might just be a short jog up a flight of stairs from ground level. Either way, we love the air up there at these ten rooftop bars — and the perspectives on the city they offer.





#### **MR STORK**

Unique vantage point? Expect one-of-a-kind views wherever you turn from the 39th floor of the Andaz Singapore. Creative cocktails? They make one with arrack (and they have their own beer). Reasonable prices? You bet. And you can take it all in from the comfort of a tepee hut.

39/F Andaz Singapore, 5 Fraser St., 6408-1255, hyatt.com

#### **PROPELLER**

Offering vistas of HarbourFront and Sentosa (which means you'll get to see fireworks daily), Propeller at Bay Hotel Singapore has some of the most affordable prices anywhere. Try one of the quirky offerings from their "Wonders of Propeller" selection, inspired by the Wonders of the World.

R/F Bay Hotel Singapore, 50 Telok Blangah Rd., 6818-6676, fb.com/propellerbarsg

#### Best Rooftop Bars







SMOKE & MIRRORS

What's the perfect way to end a day spent perusing the largest collection of modern

Southeast Asian art in the world? A drink at Smoke & Mirrors, of course. Its location at the National Gallery gives it a distinctive view, and the arty cocktails are a cultural experience of their own.

#06-01 National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew's Rd., 9380-6313, smokeandmirrors.com.sg

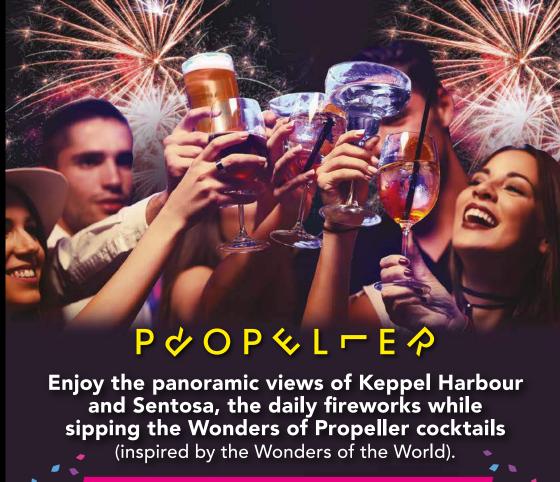
THE OTHER ROOF
When it was revealed that the people from
The Other Room were opening a rooftop
bar at Ann Siang Road, you knew things were going

to get interesting. Their collection of more than 400 tea-finished spirits didn't disappoint.

R/F Ann Siang House, 28 Ann Siang Rd., 6100-2882, theotherroof.com

A venue that needs no introduction, Ce La Vi is a key destination on many a tourist itinerary, but has its draws for the local crowd too — its mix of signature and classic cocktails, and its Club Lounge which ranks among the world's top 100 clubs according to DJ Mag.

57/F Marina Bay Sands Hotel Tower 3, 10 Bayfront Ave., 6508-2188, celavi.com



### MERRIER HOURS | 6 TO 9PM

Free-flow food, housepours and draught beer @ \$58++\*

\*Not valid for events, eve of public holidays and/or public holiday \*Not applicable with any other promotions, vouchers and/or offers

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PROPELLER (ROOFTOP BAR) LEVEL 11, BAY HOTEL SINGAPORE

50 TELOK BLANGAH ROAD. SINGAPORE 098828. T +65 6818 6676 WWW.BAYHOTELSINGAPORE.COM/DINING

#### Best Rooftop Bars











**LAVO** 

Promising the "ultimate vibe-dining experience", American import

Lavo combines Italian-American cuisine with music from DJs spinning at a fully equipped booth. To that they add refreshing cocktails that are perfect for a breezy perch.

57/F Marina Bay Sands Hotel Tower 1, 10 Bayfront Ave., 6688-8591, lavosingapore.com

#### LOOF

Loof is the bar that taught us how to love rooftops, opening all the way back in 2005 and kick-starting the Lo & Behold Group's rise to become the bona fide F&B and hospitality empire it is today. They're the experts when it comes to moving with the times without losing your identity.

#03-07 Odeon Towers Extension Rooftop, 331 North Bridge Rd., 6337-9416, loof.com.sg

#### **POTATO HEAD SINGAPORE**

While Three Buns and Studio 1939 have their charms, the highlight of a visit to Potato Head is its tropical rooftop bar, where sweeping views of Keong Saik await. Have a coconut Negroni or one

of their inventive Zombies and see Chinatown like you've never seen it before.

36 Keong Saik Rd., 6327-1939, ptthead.com/singapore

#### **URBANA**

Looking out over Novena from 33 floors up, Urbana deals in classic cocktails,

reputable spirits and fine wines. You'll be spoiled for choice with the latter — 11 are available by the glass including Ayala Champagne.

33/F Courtyard Singapore Novena, 99 Irrawaddy Rd., 6378-2060, fb.com/urbanarooftopbar

1-ALTITUDE ROOFTOP **GALLERY & BAR** 

There's more than one concept at 1-Altitude, but if we had to pick one, it would have to be the Rooftop Gallery & Bar, the highest alfresco bar in the world. Champagne cocktails taste best 282 meters above the bustle of Raffles Place.

63/F One Raffles Place. 1 Raffles Place. 6438-0410, 1-altitude.com



We all love a bit of pub grub, but if you're looking for something a little extra, there are plenty of bars in Singapore with menus that go beyond the expected standards like burgers and pizza. Here are the best among them.

One of 2018's most exciting arrivals, The Guild's 19 taps of craft beer are reason enough to visit, but they don't disappoint with food either. From farm-fresh Pulau Ubin oysters to General Tso's frog legs and BBQ stingray, these are bar bites with a difference.

55 Keong Saik Rd., 9042-3900, www.theguild.sg

JOO BAR
This Tan Quee Lan Street establishment draws you in with their house-brewed makgeolli (Korean rice wine), and keeps you coming back with their kimchi mac and cheese, seafood pancakes and Joo bossam (braised pork belly with spicy radish salad).

5 Tan Quee Lan St., 8138-1628, joo-bar.com









THE TUCKSHOP

Located on a chilled-out corner in Geylang.
The Tuckshop is a hidden gem founded
with the ambition of showcasing local talent. Their
Platter by Locals, featuring har cheong gai, carrot
cake and crispy sio bak, represents that nicely.

403 Guillemard Rd., 6744-8205, thetuckshop.com.sg

"Modern Shudo", a modern way of enjoying sake, is the concept here. Choose from more than 80 sake labels, and pair your pick with chef Pepe Moncayo's seasonal, boundary-defying cuisine.

38 Tras St., 67448205, bam.sg

CASA PONCHO

Located on historic premises on
Bukit Pasoh Road, Casa Poncho is
a celebration of Latin American cuisine and
drinks. Mexico in particular takes center stage
with a wide range of agave spirits and dishes
like grilled octopus with salsa ranchera.

14 Bukit Pasoh Rd., 6224-5466, casaponcho.com

#### Best Gastrobars











A reliable place for all things
German for over a decade now,
Brotzeit promises hearty authenticity in every
dish — from their pork knuckle to their array
of sausages and their apple strudel — best
enjoyed with a hefty mug of Munich's best.

Five outlets, including #01-17 Raffles City Shopping Centre, 252 North Bridge Rd., 6883-1534, brotzeit.co

#### **BIRDIE NUM NUM**

Charcoal-grilled wagyu rump with potato gratin and asparagus, scallops with mentaiko sauce and salted egg fish skin are just some of the delectable offerings at this trusty spot out east.

54 Jln Kembangan, 6449-2546, fb.com/birdienumnumbar

LE BINCHOTAN

Named for a rare type of Japanese charcoal, this French-Japanese establishment is one of the coziest places in the

Amoy Street area. Stop by to savor their uni and caviar, sakura ebi with capellini and Angus short ribs with burnt leek puree and port wine reduction.

#01-04115 Amoy St., 6224-1045, lebinchotan.sg

The cuisines of Austria, Germany and Switzerland share top billing at Leopold, with smoked trout, mini schnitzels, cold cut platters and surrequiret complemented by an international

with smoked trout, mini schnitzels, cold cut platters and currywurst complemented by an international wine list and a house label of organic sloe gin.

96 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 6534-7644, leopold.sg

### MA CUISINE

Ma Cuisine serves up "food for wine lovers" and, indeed, oenophiles

can choose from more than 3,000 bottles in the establishment's cellars. Their calf sweetbread with wild mushrooms, crispy organic egg with bottarga and squab with foie gras provide the perfect company for the vino.

38 Craig Rd., 6224-1838, macuisinesg.com



Alcohol trends come and go, but wine will always have its devotees. After all, few things add joy and color to life like the places you see, the people you meet and the cuisines you taste as a lover of fine wine. These five establishments celebrate that sentiment.

If Wine RVLT's revolution succeeds, more people will be drinking "authentic, living, raw, natural and honest wines".

Spontaneous fermentation, unconventional aging methods, unusual grape varieties and funky flavors are par for the course here, so be ready for an unexpected journey.

#01-0138 Carpenter St., 9678-5166, winervlt.sg

Opened in early 2018, Winestone at Novotel Singapore on Scotts serves modern European fare with a focus on the Mediterranean region. Their affordable (but quality) wines, starting from just \$6 a glass and \$48 a bottle, make this a perfect after-work hangout.

#01-01 Novotel Singapore on Stevens, 28 Stevens Rd., 6491-6100, winestone.com.sg











# 3. VERRE MODERN BISTRO & WINE BAR

As impressive as their cellar is, Verre has no airs about it — they want people to drink good wine "without having to put on a tie". Expect no less than 20 wines from revered producers available by the glass, covering red, white, rose, bubbly and sweet.

#01-05/06 8 Rodyk St., 6509-1917, verre.com.sg

29 Club St., 6224-1490, lebonfunk.com

#### **LE BON FUNK**

"People over place" is the philosophy at Le Bon Funk — their selection of natural wines is curated based on winemakers rather than wine regions. The food is appropriately interesting, with chef-owner Keirin Buck crafting dishes like mussel and rutabaga broth and cavatelli with tripe and Calabrian pepper.

LA TERRE

Home to Daisuke Kawai, a highly regarded sommelier with the awards to prove it, La Terre is a bar that prides itself on stocking sought-

after Old World wines. And while you'll find the best that Bordeaux and Burgundy have to offer here, unique bottles from places like Greece and Lebanon are also available.

11 Upper Circular Rd., 6532-1031, laterrewine.com

# Best Bottle Shops

As nice at it would be to have your cocktails served by a mixologist and your wines poured by a sommelier every time you feel like having a drink, that isn't a realistic possibility (for most of us anyway). That's where bottle shops come in, and the best of them help us bring the contemporary bar experience into our living rooms.

TEMPLE CELLARS

This place is a drinks writer's dream.
They've got a little bit of everything:
craft beer, boutique wine, mead, cider, sake,
spirits (from absinthe to whisky and everything
in between) and even that non-alcoholic
Seedlip stuff. And they'll deliver within an
hour for free if you spend more than \$150.

#01-12 UE Square, 81 Clemenceau Ave., 6262-2191, templecellars.com

EC PROOF

If you reckon you've got the bartending skills to shake it with the best of them, then EC Proof (and retail space The Proof Flat) is the place to get spirits, bitters, tools and books for your home bar. Look out for their special events too.

43A HongKong St., 8228-0113, ecproof.com











### THE GRANDE WHISKY COLLECTION

Mostly a museum rather than a bottle shop, The Grande Whisky Collection is a place like no other in Singapore, with 4,500 bottles of whisky on display. While you won't be able to get your hands on any ancient Yamazakis, the gift shop does have some bottles on sale which you can have engraved.

#05-01 ION Orchard, 2 Orchard Turn, 8809-0038, the-grande-whisky-collection.business.site

#### THIRSTY BEER SHOP

Thirsty might have been around for some time now, but they're always adding new brews to their list of well over a hundred. With an easy-to-navigate site and four outlets around the country, they continue to play an important role in spreading the good word about craft beer.

Four outlets, including #02-34 Liang Court, 177 River Valley Rd., 9612-3566, thirsty.com.sg

## 1855 THE BOTTLE SHOP

Named after the 1855 classification of Bordeaux wines, 1855 has a bottle for every occasion, from everyday varietals to Champagnes that won't break the bank to magnums of iconic First Growth vintages priced in the high four figures.

Six outlets, including #B2-44 313 @ Somerset, 313 Orchard Rd., 6820-1855, 1855thebottleshop.com

# Sake Bars

Japanese fine-dining restaurants and supermarkets have ensured that good sake isn't all that hard to find in Singapore, but until relatively recently, bars that specialize in sake were few and far between. At these five bars, however, nihonshu is firmly in the spotlight.

ORIHARA SHOTEN

A longtime Robertson Quay stalwart (2019 marks their 10th anniversary), Orihara is the first name that comes to mind for most people when they think of sake bars. Hosting pairing dinners, masterclasses and tastings, they remain one of the great gateways to the drink in Singapore.

#01-01/02 Robertson Walk, 6836-5710, fb.com/oriharashouten

Bringing together quality sake, modern Japanese cuisine and the artistry of kabuki theater, Kabuke has something to offer whether you're a sake newbie or aficionado. Their in-depth but easy-to-follow menu and tasting flights will give you a brisk education on sake styles, grades and regions. Have any questions? Just ask sake sommelier Keiji Heng.

2/F 200A Telok Ayer St., 8822 -5525, kabuke.sg











#### SUMO BAR HAPPY

A craft noodle bar that makes its ramen, udon and soba noodles from scratch,

Sumo Bar Happy showcases the typically humble one-cup sake (the type in a simple jar with a pull top). They also have a list of cocktails that can be paired with their indulgent ramens (they have one with a slow-roasted 600g bone-in short rib).

#01-24 Waterloo Centre, 261 Waterloo St., sumobarhappy.com

#### **BIG SAKE BAR**

A welcoming izakaya with all your favorite sashimi, sushi and grilled items, Big Sake Bar stocks 28 different types of sake. If you have trouble telling your junmai daiginjos apart from your junmai ginjos, this would be the perfect place to refine your palate.

#01-02 The Concourse Skyline, 302 Beach Rd., 6291-2700, bigsakebar.com

#### DONPACHI

Formerly known as Dosukoi (which has moved next door to Orchard Plaza),
Donpachi is your reward for venturing into the basement of Cuppage Plaza. With the attention to detail and shelves of 1.8L sake bottles, it's no exaggeration to say that it's as close as you can get to a Tokyo izakaya without boarding a plane. The mishmash of different sake cups is a nice touch too.

#B1-24/25 Cuppage Plaza, 5 Koek Rd., 6733-6847, fb.com/donpachi88



As taprooms continue to spread around Singapore, Singaporean microbreweries have gained more opportunities to shine, so it's no surprise that a number of new names have appeared in the last couple of years to join decade(s)-old institutions. Long may it continue!

The world's highest urban craft brewery wins out with its combination of classic brews, brewing-inspired cuisine and breathtaking views. Each item on the menu comes with a beer pairing recommendation — think grilled quail with the 33.3 Stout, octopus with the 33.9 Wheat Beer and slipper lobster with the 33.1 Blond Lager.

#33-01 Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 1, 8 Marina Blvd., 6834-3133, level33.com.sg

While technically a gypsy brewer rather than a microbrewery, Singapore's own craft label's core range of handcrafted beers (their wild IPA is tops) is an unfailing standard. But it's their more experimental beers that set them apart; the Soursop & Peach Berliner Weisse, Lychee Red Tea Ale and Choconut Porter among them.

brewlander.com







#### ORIGIN Grill · Bar 源点

#### Where Timeless And Ingenious Convene.

Join us on a sensorial journey at Origin Bar, where cocktails are inspired by five key districts of Singapore, namely: Orchard, Chinatown, Little India, Boat Quay and Marina Bay.

For reservations, please call +65 6213 4595 or email OriginBar.sls@shangri-la.com



#### Best Microbreweries







## 3. LITTLE ISLAND BREWING CO

Little Island's rock 'n' roll brews are well worth the trek to the far-flung corner of Singapore that is Changi Village. The easygoing Sister Golden Ale and A Whiter Shade of Pale (pale ale) are perfect for the setting, while the 7.8% alcohol by volume 19th Nervous Breakdown oaked stock ale might have you throwing around wedding proposals (they do host weddings, by the way).

#01-01/02 Blk 6 Changi Village Rd., 6543-9100, libc.co



#### **REDDOT BREWHOUSE**

RedDot's main stable of beers (including the Monster Green Lager, of course) is

still going strong, but they've also added a few fun seasonals including the fresh and fruity Lepak Ale, the watermelon-infused wheat beer Wo-De-Mei-Ren and the black-rice-based lager Twelve Stones.

Two outlets, including 33/34 Boat Quay, 6535-4500, reddotbrewhouse.com.sg

#### THE 1925 BREWING CO

Now in Joo Chiat after departing their former home on Jalan Besar, The 1925

has expanded its range of beers with stories with small-batch bottled brews like the DaBai hoppy lager and XiaoHei black IPA (named for the childhood nicknames of the microbrewery's founders) along with God's Gift, a dark ale brewed with Dilmah Ceylon Spice Chai tea.

261 Joo Chiat Rd., 6909-1425, the 1925.com.sg

# Clubs

Singapore's club scene is one that is constantly in flux, but we like to think that it has a good balance of big stalwarts and newer, more intimate spaces these days. Here's where you should go to let your hair down.





#### ZOUK

Think of all the places that have come and gone in the 28 years that this superclub has been around (many of our readers weren't even around then!). Zouk continues to draw DJs worthy of the world's third best club (according to DJ Mag's rankings) with its outlets accommodating upwards of 2,600 people.

The Cannery, 3C River Valley Rd., 6738-2988, zoukclub.com

#### **KILO LOUNGE**

Hosting DJs across a diverse array of genres, Kilo Lounge ups the ante with great cocktails — how about a rosemary gimlet or a Macha Sake, made with sake and matcha-infused gin? — and an admirable selection of crafty spirits.

#01-02/04 21 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 9824-9747, kilokitchen.com/lounge

### Best Clubs







Channeling the spirit of a club in New York's backstreets circa the 1960s, Lulu's musical inclinations are as eclectic as the space itself. Step inside and you're just as likely to hear jazz, disco, house, hip hop or funk. You could even find yourself in the midst of a burlesque performance. Fun cocktails add the finishing touch.

Pan Pacific Hotel, 7 Raffles Blvd., 9829-1922, Iulus.sg

BAR ROUGE

The Shanghai club's first international destination provided some welcome reinvention to the after-dark offerings atop

the Swissotel The Stamford. The party goes on until 6am on Fridays and Saturdays, with hip hop and R&B on the former and EDM (or open format beats) on the latter.

71/F & 72/F Swissotel The Stamford, 2 Stamford Rd., 9177-7307, fb.com/barrougesingapore

BANG BANG

A sister outlet of Lulu's, Bang Bang casts itself as a high-end venue with a focus on high-energy partying. You might spot a star or two while you're here — they've welcomed everyone from Gordon Ramsay to LMFAO.

Marina Square, 7 Raffles Blvd., 8127-2808, bangbangclub.sg

# Beach Bars

On a sunny island set in the sea, laid-back beach bars are essential. Sentosa is home to the best-known of them, but it's not your only option when you want to get some sand between your toes with a tropical beverage in hand.





#### **FOC SENTOSA**

FOC Sentosa combines the cuisine, culture and atmosphere of Barcelona's beaches with the cred of a HongKong Street favorite. Tuck into a meal of tapas, paella and the sustainable catch of the day before treating yourself to a Spanish style G&T (with a 60ml gentleman's pour of artisanal gin) or a cocktail designed to help you beat the heat.

110 Tanjong Beach Walk, 6100-1102, focsentosa.com

### 2. TANJONG BEACH CLUB

Eight years later, and there still aren't many better places in Singapore to spend a lazy afternoon — whether you're kicking back with a Malayan Mai Tai or getting in on the action at one of their Smack My Beach Up shindigs.

120 Tanjong Beach Walk, 6270-1355, tanjongbeachclub.com

#### Best Beach Bars







COASTES

A rustic getaway that's ideal for

both family outings and date nights,
Coastes on Siloso Beach serves classic and
frozen cocktails, hearty breakfasts and all-day
comfort food. Weekend brunches with a free

flow of bubbly are always a good idea too.

50 Siloso Beach Walk. 6631-8938. coastes.com

**GEORGES** 

If you're looking to chill out at a beach a little bit off the beaten trail, the good people at Georges have you covered. Among

their six outlets are waterfront spots at Pasir

Ris Park, The Punggol Settlement and East Coast Park. The live music at the latter, Georges Beach Club, makes it the pick of the bunch.

Six outlets, including 1010 East Coast Parkway, 6449-0019, georges.com.sg

OLA BEACH CLUB

A slice of Hawaii right on Siloso Beach, Ola is a place to party, dine on authentic

Hawaiian cuisine and get your watersports fix on a kayak, stand-up paddleboard or banana boat; or with a water-propelled jetpack strapped to your back.

46 Siloso Beach Walk, 6250 6978, olabeachclub.com



Some of them might be simple spots to unwind after a long day, others are destinations in their own right, but whenever you stop by these hotel bars, you can count on good service and drinks that complement the luxe ambience.





# THE WAREHOUSE HOTEL LOBBY BAR

Among the most prominent hotel openings in recent years, the Warehouse Hotel revived an age-old godown in Robertson Quay and provided us with a brilliant hotel bar simply called the Lobby Bar. The heritage of the building is celebrated in the menu here, with cocktails inspired by three eras of its history: Spice Trade, Godown and The Warehouse Disco (it was actually a disco in the late 20th century).

The Warehouse Hotel, 320 Havelock Rd., 6828-0000. thewarehousehotel.com

#### **ADRIFT**

With celebrity chef David Myers and legendary bartender Sam Ross curating the menus at this modern izakaya, Adrift is one of Marina Bay Sands' top options—particularly past midnight. How many other places offer Penicillins (and a myriad of cocktails with Asian flavors) and charcuterie spreads at 1am?

Lobby, Marina Bay Sands Hotel Tower 2, 10 Bayfront Ave., 6688-5657, marinabaysands.com

#### Best Hotel Bars







MARTINI BAR

No prizes for guessing what the specialty at this time-honored bar is. Among their signature martinis are variations with coconut, basil, cucumber and soursop, and all signature and classic martinis are available at happy hour prices daily from 5pm to 9pm.

Mezzanine Level, Grand Hyatt Singapore, 10 Scotts Rd., 6738-1234, singapore.grand.hyattrestaurants.com

MITZO

Great Chinese restaurants are easy to find in Singapore, but Mitzo's modern take on Cantonese fare and artisanal cocktail program help it

stand out. Order up the premium steamed dim sum platter and pair it with a Garden of Eden, a mix of tea-infused tequila, maraschino liqueur, lemon juice, chrysanthemum syrup, jasmine water and egg white.

4/F Grand Park Orchard, 270 Orchard Rd., 6603-8855, mitzo.sg

**CHIHULY LOUNGE** 

Art has pride of place at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, and at Chihuly Lounge,

the focus is on the instantly recognizable sculptures of glass artist Dale Chihuly. Admire them with a signature gin and tonic or Champagne cocktail while you enjoy live music Tuesdays to Sundays.

3/F The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, 7 Raffles Ave., 6434-5288, ritzcarlton.com



## GIN TREASURY

3-HOUR OF FREE-FLOW GIN, HOUSE WINE & BEER \$68++ PER PERSON



### EVERY SATURDAY 5 pm till late

(LAST SEATING AT 8.30PM)

With over 25 gin collection, personalise your own gin & tonic from various styles including Aged, London Dry & Modern gins. Experience exclusive labels such as Helsingin, a Finland gin label available in Asia, exclusively at CIN CIN.



Sometimes, a night on the town isn't so much about seeking out specific drinks — sometimes we want to be transported to a different place or time. And sometimes we want to spend an evening putting our way around a miniature golf course.

### HOLEY MOLEY GOLF CLUB

There were a couple of minigolf courses around before Holey Moley opened in late 2018, but it's safe to say we've never seen anything quite like it here. A "multi-sensory labyrinth" with holes featuring pop culture references, Holey Moley will keep you hydrated through your round with appropriately whimsical and Instagrammable cocktails.

#01-013B River Valley Rd., 800-492-2410, holeymoley.com.sg

SUM YI TAI

We enjoy Shanghai-themed
establishments, but there's something
even more appealing about 1980s Hong Kong, the era
celebrated at Sum Yi Tai. The three-in-one venue
plays Cantopop, serves Chinese tapas (like maple
honey glazed char siew) and mixes up cocktails with
Asian flavors; the Chinese Mojito (chrysanthemum
rum, mint and lime) among them.

25 Boon Tat St., 6221-3665, sumyitai.com











#### NINETEEN80

For the older Millennials and tail-end Gen X-ers among us, human existence basically reached its peak in the '80s. Relive it, or discover it, in all its kitschy 8-bit glory at Nineteen80, a place where remixes of our first cocktails, video games and retro music reign supreme.

#01-05 21 Tanjong Pagar Rd., 9183-6073, nineteen80.sg

#### **CUBA LIBRE**

Capturing the spirit of a Habanero hangout, Cuba Libre has kept the mojitos (they have around 20 to choose from) flowing for 13 years under the watchful eyes of Che Guevara. Live music rings out seven days a week here, courtesy of six-piece band Adrenalina.

Two outlets, including #01-13 3B River Valley Rd., 6338-8982. cubalibre.asia

#### **MOLLY MALONE'S**

There's a special place in our hearts for Irish and English pubs — how many great nights have been had at Muddy Murphy's, McGettigan's and The Penny Black over the years? But if we go back to where it all began, we end up at sweet Molly Malone's, looking as good as ever after close to a quarter of a century in business.

56 Circular Rd., 6536-2029, molly-malone.com



Far from being dens of ill repute, modern dive bars are welcoming, straightforward and frill-free establishments filled with good people having a great time. Because we all could use an opportunity to let it all hang out from time to time.

**SKINNY'S** There was only ever going to be one winner in this category. At this point, Skinny's is more than a bar; it's almost a way of life to end up there with a bucket of PBRs towards the end of a big night, ready to yell out songs we probably wouldn't dare to sing sober.

82 Boat Quay, fb.com/drinkskinnys

**GOING OM** Where better to relax on Singapore's most eclectic street than a greenerysurrounded bar with Himalayan inclinations. We enjoy hanging out with their avian employees as much as we dig the affordable beer buckets.

63 Haji Ln., 8363-5640, going-om.com.sg







#### Best Dive Bars







# 3. LITTLE INDIA

Live sports, live music, an entertaining crowd made up of locals, expats and backpackers, and some unapologetically old-school Aussie cultural references make this a place you'll return to time and time again.

101 Dunlop St., 6299-0130, pow.com.sg

ACID BAR

Most of the bars around Emerald Hill have a timeless charm about them — with many throwbacks to Singapore's nightlife of yesteryear —

but Acid Bar represents everything we like about the place, with live music, hearty food, cheap happy hour deals and shot travs.

Peranakan Place, 180 Orchard Rd., 6738-8818, acidbar.sg

#### HERO'S

Another place where sports and live music are in the limelight, Hero's also hosts comedy nights and themed parties (the partying here tends to go on until three or four in the morning in any case). And they've got VIP beer tap tables that allow you to pour your own pints without having to leave your seat.

69 Circular Rd., 6438-6058, heros.sg

# Alcohol Events

They might only run for a few days (or one day in some cases), but a number of alcohol events have found regular places on our calendars, eagerly anticipated each year with the same glee that precedes any festive season.





#### **BEERFEST ASIA**

Singapore around the same time that Beerfest Asia held its first edition; over the years, we got to know many breweries we're now familiar with at the festival. Ten editions on, we've followed the festivities from the F1 track to the Marina Bay Cruise Centre and Gardens by the Bay, and we'll continue to go wherever they go.

Craft beer really arrived on the scene in

beerfestasia.com

## WHISKY LIVE Hot on the heels of Beerfest, Whisky

Live will mark its 10th visit to Singapore in 2019. The dozens of whisk(e)y brands on show are, of course, the highlight, but the event has also introduced Singapore to some of the world's other interesting spirits.

whiskylive.sg

#### Best Alcohol Events







#### **SINGAPORE** 3. COCKTAIL FESTIVAL

Pop-up bars, guest bartenders and workshops make this a must-attend event for Singapore's ever-growing population of cocktail aficionados, but the festival events held outside the Festival Village take it even further — 41 bars participated in 2018. Dates for 2019 have already been announced: May 10 to 18.

singaporecocktailfestival.com



#### **SAKE MATSURI**

As more people learn how to understand and enjoy good sake, Sake Matsuri can

only grow in importance. Its first staging already impressed, with more than 200 sakes to sample and early bird ticketholders taking home Schott Zwiesel sake glasses.

sakematsuri.sg

#### **PINOT PALOOZA**

Wine events account for the majority of alcohol showcases in Singapore, so picking one is no easy task, but it's hard to look past Pinot Palooza. It's fun, accessible and encourages the light-hearted and irreverent appreciation of one of the world's favorite grapes.

pinotpalooza.sg



