



THE BEST NEW BARS IN AMERICA

THE SUREST WAY TO IMPRESS IS KNOWING THE LATEST AND GREATEST PLACE TO HAVE DRINKS. FROM LOCAL FAVORITES TO THE TEMPLES OF MASTER MIXOLOGISTS, HERE ARE THE STANDOUTS.

HIGH-END COCKTAILS

BILLY SUNDAY, CHICAGO

Matthias Merges, former chef at Charlie Trotter's, presides over a cozy parlor in the up-and-coming Logan Square hood.

THE VIBE: Antique china and reclaimed chandeliers recall late-19th-century watering holes.

THE DRINKS: Inventive with exotic ingredients, like a daiquiri made with rum agricole, Jamaican overproof white rum, lime, passion-fruit syrup, and pineapple bitters. billy-sunday.com

HOP SING LAUNDROMAT, PHILADELPHIA

The 1,000-bottle inventory and the enigmatic, always cuff-linked owner-

host known only as Lêe are just two of the draws at this red-hot Chinatown spot.

THE VIBE: A feel of aristocratic exclusivity, thanks to Victorian accents and Lêe's strict house rules (no sneakers, no photos).

THE DRINKS: A mix of pre-Prohibition-era picks (like the orange-and-lemon-juice-laced Ward 8) and modern interpretations. hopsinglaundromat.com

MIDDLE BRANCH, NEW YORK CITY

Sasha Petraske touches down in midtown, bringing a subdued elegance to fratty Murray Hill.

THE VIBE: The bi-level bar is spacious downstairs and has an



Vessel, Seattle

intimate living-room feel upstairs.

THE DRINKS: Classic cocktails (including a Queen's Park Swizzle) or bartender's choice. 212-213-1350

POURING RIBBONS, NEW YORK CITY

Mixology stars Jason Cott, Troy Sidle, Toby Maloney, and Joaquín Simó raise East Village tippling to new heights in this airy, absinthe-hued bar.

THE VIBE: Well-heeled Manhattanites crowd the 88-seat room, lit by Art Deco fixtures.

THE DRINKS: Impec-

cably crafted cocktails like the Prabu Punch, a mix of whiskey, lemon, spiced pumpkin, orange cordial, and bitters. pouringribbons.com

VESSEL, SEATTLE

The groundbreaking cocktail bar recently reopened in a brand-new, downtown space. **THE VIBE:** Cement pillars and exposed ducts give the room an austere coolness.

THE DRINKS: The recipes of 25 rotating bartenders are bolstered by an in-house ice program. vesselseattle.com

LOCAL FAVORITES

With an unpretentious, casual vibe, these new neighborhood hangouts are drawing drinkers from every ZIP code.



CAMP BAR, MILWAUKEE

Modeled after the owners' lake cabin up north, this homey lodge has a pedigreed-lumberjack aesthetic and serves a mean Wisconsin old-fashioned (brandy muddled with orange and cherry). campbarmke.com



Pouring Ribbons, New York City

PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: JEREMY HERMAN; JOHN GRANEN/COURTESY OF VESSEL; COURTESY OF THE BRYXTON; COURTESY OF DRUMBARYL COMMUNICATIONS; COURTESY OF TENDER TRAP; COURTESY OF SASSAFRAS; COURTESY OF GIGANTIC BREWING COMPANY; COURTESY OF THE FAMOUS; ROYAL BREWVÅXLING/ONMILWAUKEE.COM/COURTESY OF CAMP.



The Brixton, Washington, D.C.

LOUNGES

Scarlet Fever is composed of two rums, pineapple and lime juices, and cinnabark syrup. donnabklyn.com

DRUMBAR, CHICAGO

This Gold Coast den atop the Raffaello hotel boasts a 1,500-square-foot terrace with grand views of Lake Michigan, plus a posh indoor lounge.

THE VIBE: This sky-high perch—appointed with brass fixtures and dark-wood paneling—also features cutting-edge cocktails from mixology wizard Craig Schoettler (formerly of Grant Achatz's Aviary). drumbar.com



Drumbar, Chicago

THE ARMORY CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO

The owner of the porn site Kink.com is behind this haute, damask-walled Mission district hideaway.

THE VIBE: The crowd downs glasses of Beaujolais and German pilsners in a room that complements the clubby feel (underlit amber-onyx bar) with a hint of danger (bondage paintings). armoryclub.com

THE BRIXTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

London invades U Street with this hip, tri-level English pub whose rooftop deck and second-floor lounge are always bustling.

THE VIBE: The Boddingtons on tap, antler chandeliers, and historical images decorating the walls evoke a British hunting lodge. brixtondc.com

DONNA, BROOKLYN

Goat Town's Leif Huckman channels Havana Club cool at this rum-soaked scenester destination in South Williamsburg.

THE VIBE: Whitewashed walls, vaulted ceilings, and reclaimed pine-wood floors offset the tropical-inflected drinks menu. The popular

SIXTY-SIX, LOS ANGELES

The gents responsible for glamorous L.A. joints like the Dime and Winston return with this glossy, retro-futuristic hot spot in West Hollywood.

VIBE: Rat Pack-era glitz gets an upgrade as a red-carpet crowd sips martinis and champagne in leather-wrapped booths amid glowing, golden circular set pieces. sixtysixla.com

4 TRENDS TO KNOW

ANTI-SPEAKEASIES
BYE-BYE, DARK ROOMS; HELLO, WELCOMING COCKTAIL BARS LIKE THE HAWTHORNE IN BOSTON, WITH A BRIGHTLY LIT PENTHOUSELIKE SPACE AND A WELL-MARKED ENTRANCE.

ASIAN ACCENTS
DRINKS AT CHICAGO'S BILLY SUNDAY FEATURE KAFFIR-LIME EXTRACT, AND NYC'S MIHOKO'S 21 GRAMS USES UMESHU AND FLAMING SHISO.

CANNED BEER
BLIND PIG IN PHILADELPHIA SELLS 60 VARIETIES, WHILE CHICAGO'S SMALL BAR DIVISION STOCKS 19.

LIQUID NITROGEN BARS LIKE NYC'S BOOKER AND DAX GIVE GLASSES A MAGICAL FLAIR WITH CHEMICALLY INDUCED WISPS OF SMOKE.

SPECIALTY BARS

RUM

RUMBA

Seattle's Rumba rocks a 1950s-Cuba vibe with more than 200 types of the sugarcane booze and the requisite Hemingway collection. rumbaonpike.com



The Air-Conditioned Nightmare at Rumba

BARREL-AGED COCKTAILS

PROOF AND PROVISION

This subterranean Atlanta bar capitalizes on the craze for all things aged by brewing its own concoctions, including a six-week-old-rye Manhattan. proofandprovision.com

GIN

GIN PALACE

At this steampunky hot spot in New York, nightlife maestro Ravi Derossi has gin and tonic on tap and more than 30 carefully chosen varieties of the namesake spirit on the back bar. ginpalaceny.com

TIKI DRINKS

THREE DOTS AND A DASH

Beloved Chicago barman Paul McGee opened a tropical oasis, serving pro-level tiki tipples with evocative names like A Lonely Island in the Middle of a Foggy Sea. threedotschicago.com

BEER

GLENDALE TAP

The only thing this shabby, Midwest-style dive in Glendale, California, has in greater quantities than seventies paraphernalia is taps—there are 52 dispensing fresh brew. facebook.com/glendaletap



THE FAMOUS, LOS ANGELES

This scruffy, dimly lit Glendale cocktail joint gets its roguish charm from head barman Nick Vitulli, who parks his motorcycle inside and serves revamped oldies but goodies, like a cognac French 75. thefamousglendale.com



GIGANTIC BREWING COMPANY, PORTLAND, OREGON

Two of Oregon's best brewmasters—Van Havig and Ben Love—opened this concrete-floored modern brewery that attracts beer lovers with its spacious tasting room and strong IPA. giganticbrewing.com



SASSAFRAS, LOS ANGELES

The South rises again (this time in Hollywood) at this old townhouse, which was actually dismantled and shipped up from Savannah. Live jazz, houseplants, and mint juleps make for a boozy house party. sassafrashollywood.com



TENDER TRAP, BROOKLYN

Pro BMX biker Darryl Nau and Santos Party House's Ryan Virag fuse skate-punk energy and artsy sex appeal at their unapologetic Williamsburg dive, where skinny boys and mascara-eyed girls drink cheap beer. tendertrapbk.com